No. 13 (FEB. 69)

FM Promotions

The International Crosby Circle Presents

BING

Edited by FRANK MURPHY

Bing at his beloved Pebble Beach Jan.1966

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BING CROSBY

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incorporating
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founded 1950

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LARRY CROSBY

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"BING" the official private journal of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE is issued quarterly on the 5th of FEBUARY: MAY: AUGUST and NOVEMBER. The magazine is produced and distributed free of cost to registered subscribers by Frank Murphy to whom all material should be sent.

When your annual subscribtion is due a special renewal notice will be included with your magazine.

When writing to any of the clubs officers please ALWAYS extend the courtesy of a stamped self addressed envelope.

Honorary members include;
STAN WHITE-former Publicity officer; MICK DRURY-Tape Crosby. KATHRYN CROSBY: JOHN SCOTT TROTTER; DOUGLAS ENEFER-Newcastle Evening Chronicle

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Photo Covers
FRED ROMARY

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
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No 13 1969:

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ALF FARROW
REG BRISTO
FRANK MURPHY

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The Bing Crosby Song Album Number 4 - Alan Lurie/Ron Bosley

NOW AVAILABLE: Courtesy of international collector KEITH HYDE

Correction sheet Number 1 for THE ICC MINI DISCOGRAPHY
send a s.a.e. for your sheet now - because of postal difficulties we will pay postage on overseas requests.

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE -
The ICC Mini-Discography (first issue) is now sol out. A second print is being arranged and will be available at 10/- (£1-50) in the next issue of "BING" - order now and have your copy enclosed with the next issue of this magazine

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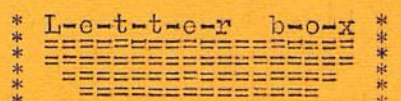
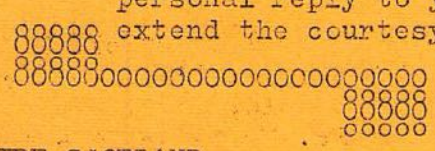


A QUARTERLY LITTLE SELECTION OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL VIEWS AND NEWS - Members are invited to send their letters to the editor for inclusion in this column - if you require a personal reply to your letter, please always extend the courtesy of a stamped addressed envelope



NINIAN FAICHNEY-STIRLINGSHIRE-SCOTLAND
It was a very pleasant surprise when young Michael Crampton and his girl friend called in to see me late last summer. I'm only sorry it had to be such a short visit but I appreciated the fact that they had sacrificed part of their holiday to give me a call - Michael is a really dedicated Crosby man and your playing of Bing's records in your cinema pleased him no end. Well I remember how I used to delight in the playing of Bing's latest hits in the local cinemas before and during the war.

ooo

RON DANIELS-ELIZABETH WEST-S AUSTRALIA
Great news about Bing's latest recording session and the fact that they may use some of his earlier Reprise titles. I missed a couple of these when they were originally released as they were soon deleted here. Such as FAR FROM HOME/HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY and WHITE WORLD OF WINTER

ooo

TONY BULMER-YORKSHIRE-ENGLAND
Glad to know your new baby is fine, and well I know how hectic those weeks must have been. This is because on Oct 30 my brother Martin was born and I think I can vouch for him being another Bing fan, at least he will be if I have anything to do with it.

ooo

ERNEST ROBINSON-CHESHIRE-ENGLAND
I've just bought Bing's new album, "Thoroughly Modern Bing" after reading in the mag that it was now available in the U.K. It was well worth waiting for.

ooo

ADRAIN FOWLER-VICTORIA-AUSTRALIA
Just a note to acknowledge safe reciept of the Ace of Hearts albums and the Mini discog which is first class and as a ready reference it could not be bettered. It will take pride of place in my discogs

ooo

GORDON ELRICK-ABERDEEN-SCOTLAND
The last few months have been very rewarding for Crosby fans with the release of "Bing Crosby In Hollywood" and "Thoroughly Modern Bing" although something like thirty odd years seperate these recordings, The Groaner has the situation, style and interpretation well in hand.

ooo

JOHN BASSETT-ESSEX-ENGLAND
Naturally I bought "Thoroughly Modern Bing" the day it appeared in the shops. He puts a lot of feeling in "Rainbow" and the whole LP is very enjoyable, some of the songs being new to me.

Talking about putting feeling into a song what about Bing's chorus of "Brahms Lullaby" on the 5 album Decca set. I've never known him be so moved when singing a song as he is here.

I've just purchased "The Bing Crosby Story" and what a masterpiece this is. Interesting to listen to the two takes of "St Louis Blues". No wonder Bing collectors attempt to get every take of a song. These two tracks sound like two completely different songs. Also good to note a different take of "Sweet Georgia Brown" is used that the one on the recent Hallmark "Crosby Classics" album

ooo

THOMAS NORTHROPE-VICTORIA-AUSTRALIA
This is my first chance of meeting you per the mail and firstly let me say how much the work of the ICC in spreading news of the great man, is appreciated. In this I am sure I will be supported by the great bulk of small collectors, as well as the giants who have been collecting for a lifetime.

The other night I had a wonderful session with Cob. Hyde, the first we've had for sometime and after early Whiteman and tapes we went into unnissued material. It was, as you will imagine, a night beyond recall.

ooo

JIM HILL-GLOS-ENGLAND
I'm very pleased that Bing has been in the recording studios again. 1968 has been a very good year for Crosby fans and 1969 looks as though it will be too.

ooo

FLT LT HAYWARD-KENT-ENGLAND
Thank you for the Bing mini-discography Enclosed subscription for the International Crosby Circle

.....continuing.....LETTER-BOX.....

MICHAEL SOPER-CARDIFF-WALES
May I say how much I enjoyed Fred Reynolds article TO FRID FROM FRUNK. It took sometime to decipher but was great fun, let's have more like it. I enjoy a good laugh. Peter Wilson wrote a good article, and like Peter I keep a small diary of all Bing records played over the air. My transister is always on at home or work. I now have Bing's new album THOROUGHLY MODERN BING in my collection - this is a lovely album, no complaints at all, though I expect there will be from older members who always want Bing to make more albums and when he does they tear them apart. My favourite on this album is MY FRIEND THE DOCTOR. Bing sounds just great and very much at home. Other big favourites are DING DONG THE WITCH IS DEAD and THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE.

ooo

JACK DOUGAN-CO DOWN-IRELAND
It was great to see and hear Bing on the BING CROSBY SHOW-BBC-TV on New Years Eve. What an array of talent and I for one would like to see an LP of the show.

Caught the following Bing items on radio;

Oct 30.STEP TO THE REAR
Nov 14.What's more American
16.St Louis Blues
Dec 13.My friend the Doctor
14. Singalong selection
15.I Love You Samantha
21.White Christmas
24. Christmas Dinner Country Style
25. White Christmas
Jan 9.HERE COMES THE GROOM.ITV-TV

ooo

ALF FARROW-YORKSHIRE-ENGLAND
If 1969 is as eventful as 1968 then I shall be a very happy member indeed for in '68 through being a member I have made two very good friends in Hull, especially Frank Briggs, whom I see very often and we have swopped Bing works with the utmost abandon and my tape recorder has worked overtime recently. Vic Gilmore, I don't see so much of as he lives at the other end of the city. But Frank arranged a session one Saturday night just before Christmas at his house and we had a whale of a time.
Father Christmas brought me the marvellous BING CROSBY STORY - I am going to write to Larry Carr at EPIC to thank him for this beautiful double set.

ooo

JOHN BASSETT-ESSEX-ENGLAND
I've just read Fred Reynolds article TO FRID FROM FRUNK and I am in tears. This chap is the most gifted writer you have on the magazine. It's been ages since I've read anything as funny as this

ooo

BRENDA MILES-SURREY-ENGLAND
Great news from Leslie Gaylor regarding an official club meeting with Bing for all members. I only hope it comes true

ooo

CHARMAINE TITMUS-LONDON-ENGLAND
I am enclosing postal order for membership of the British Crosby Society and would also like to purchase a large photo of Bing Crosby. I am hoping to be able to do this through the society.

ooo

PETER ROBINSON-LONDON-ENGLAND
Just a few lines on being advised by Mr Larry Crosby to write to you regarding some back numbers of Bing Crosby. I have been a great fan of Bing's for many years and have written to him many times and had some very nice replies back. I would also like to join the Bing Crosby club if possible.

ooo

CHARLIE TUPPER-SURREY-ENGLAND
Many thanks for the Newsletter with all the record news, glad Bing's getting back to some new recordings.

Interesting notes received from international collectors, ROBERT WALKER-MASTIN MOOR-ENGLAND..LEO LYNE-PHILADELPHIA-USA..BRIAN MITCHELL-VICTORIA-AUSTRALIA.. TOMMY NORTHROPE-MELBOURNE-AUSTRALIA..BO BOKREN-GOTEBORG-SWEDEN..PETER BURGIS-NEW SOUTH WALES-AUSTRALIA..MARUT HORNUNG-HERMANCE-SWITZERLAND..EDWARD TOWLER-KENT-ENGLAND..ADRIAN FOWLER-VICTORIA-AUSTRALIA...these and many other overseas collectors have much to offer our group via their indespensible knowledge, we look forward to much swapping of news items during the next year.

FRANK ASHURST-LANCS-ENGLAND
I really laughed at the article by Fred Reynolds TO FRID FROM FRUNK. I asked one of my sons to read it aloud but he could'nt for laughing.

My wife and I really enjoyed the meeting at Michael's, we really look forward to these events. Most of all however we are looking forward to the hoped for meeting with Bing.

ooo

JAMES KENNEDY-BOLDON COLLIERY-ENGLAND
Have just bought the new album by Bing THOROUGH:Y MODERN BING and like it very much except for Up Up And Away. Have also bought the two album set THE BING CROSBY STORY and also PAUL WHITEMAN Vol 1. So I have a great deal of entertainment ahead.

ooo

ARNOLD RECORD-SHEFFIELD-ENGLAND
Bing is as good as ever on the new album THOROUGHEY MODERN BING. My two favourite tracks are "Love Is Blue" and "Where the Rainbow Ends". This is Bing at his best. I think "Up UP and Away" is a tricky song to sing and I salute the worlds greatest for attempting it. Brian Mathews played "Puff The Magic Dragon" and here's what he had to say - quote

> "Without being a member of the Bing Crosby Appreciation Society I have, I suppose, a pretty extensive personal collection of the masters work and I also take delight on this programme of playing re-issues of his vintage performances. Now this one I included from affection from a gratit ude of past pleasures and yet, with regret the Statesi de THOROUGHLY MODERN BING is an album I wish Bing had not made. Of course much of the technique acquired through 40 years is still in evidence but nearly all the once incomparable term quality is gone. So often artists who have retired at their peak leaving a wealth of suberb material, attempted back for one more go with disastrous results, and now, alas, dear Bing has joined their ranks" unquote

I'm afraid I do not agree with Brian Mathews remarks for only a few days later ...he played a track of one of these infernal 'pop' singers and his remarks were "a great song and beautifully sung"

To me the voice of this singer was absolutely toneless and flat.

ooo

MARY HUGHES-MANCHESTER-ENGLAND
It's a very good idea of Mr Gaylor's to have request albums and I hope the record companies latch on to the idea

ooo

MRS Mc NAMARA-LEEDS-ENGLAND
I recently had one of my dearest wishes fuffilled when I received a letter from the great man himself. I had written to him but did not think he would have time to reply - When I received it on Tuesday last I had it framed and it is now my proudest possession.

My brother and I enjoyed our first meeting at Leeds and look forward to the next one.

ooo

FRANK HATWELL-BIRMINGHAM-ENGLAND
I wrote to Steve Mason and had a very nice reply from him. Also a very nice letter from Fred Romary who is a real boone to collectors in the U.K.

ooo

KAY JACKSON-WILTSHIRE-ENGLAND (aged 15)
Can I please join Bing Crosby's fan club I like him very much and always watch his films, especially the ones with Bob Hope - Can you please send me a list of all the films Bing has appeared in and do you have any photos of him. I only have one and he is with Bob Hope on my bedroom wall.

ooo

ALASDAIR FENTON-LANARKSHIRE-SCOTLAND
In answer to one of your correspondents Ken Hopkins of Australia there is a MICHAEL HOLLIDAY album available on World Sound T508 titled HOLIDAY MIXTURE this label is distributed by the WORLD RECORD CLUB on subscription

ooo

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BING CROSBY HOLLYWOOD January 5, 1969

Dear Frank and Members of the Circle:

Kathryn and I are very grateful to all of you for sending us the most attractive silver candlesticks at Christmastime.

We had a different kind of Christmas this year. The whole family went to the ranch in Northern California. There was two feet of snow, and it was a great thrill for the children - to spend ten days in this environment.

We did'nt open our presents until we returned home early in January. This pleased the kids very much, because they would open a couple every day, and thus prolong the enjoyment.

I've done a new album lately, which I believe might have some kind of a chance for a moderate success. At least, it's the first thing I've done in some time that I had any confidence in.

There are some very good songs in it, I think. "Little Green Apples", "Hey Jude", Those Were The Days", and the "Straight Life"

The production is very good on the album - some very fine orchestrations, and excellent musicianship. I think you'll like it.

I'll have my secretary send you one as soon as it's printed. It's due for release any day now.

Give my best wishes to all my friends there. Kathryn joins me in warmest best wishes to all of you for a happy 1969 -

As ever

Signed BING

* ======== "BING" ====
* ============== CROSBY =====
* ==================== SHOPPE

CHATTERBOX RECORDING CLUB

The tapesponding club whose members share in possible prizes of £25 to £25,000. Annual membership UK 5/-. Overseas 6/-. SAE for details 368 Rush Green Road, Romford, Essex, England - OR TO Irish Correspondent, William Wilson, 31 Ruth St, Belfast BT 15 2JW, N Ireland.

ENGLISH BRUNSWICK CATALOGUE - 02000 Dec 1934 - 02999 July 1940 - Issued Jan 1969. price 4/- (50cents) from Jim Hayes, 22 Empire Rd, Liverpool L21 8HR, England.

THE LONGINES SYMPHONETTE SOCIETY have the new Bing Crosby album (6 great albums containing some great musical items PLUS 36 tracks by Bing - PLUS a brand new 12" album of Bing's original Brunswick gems including GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART, WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT, and JUST ONE MORE CHANCE) Easy terms available, 8/6 deposit then 20/- per month - fuller details direct from the Society via MRS SHEILA SINDEN, 98 CHURCH RD, HOVE, SUSSEX BN 3 2EB, ENGLAND. Information courtesy of Leslie Gaylor

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BING-PICS - Mat Finish Post-cards 1/3 each
No 1..Bing and Kathy-London 1968
No 2..Bing and Kathy-London 1968-different pose.
please order direct from JOHN MAUGHAN - a full listing of more tha 100 Bing-pics is being prepared for re-release in the next issue of this magazine.

BING AND OTHER THINGS by KATHRYN CROSBY
a copy of this book is urgently required by club member Ernest Robinson, 15 Douglas Rd, Adswood, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 8RQ - CAN YOU HELP? please.

BILL HALL 131 Easedale dns, Lyndhurst Est, Gateshead NE 9 6 PZ, England offers an extensive list of Bing 78's for sale at 3/6 each - full list on application - plus the following-offers invited.

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM BING TO THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY - 1965
VOICE OF THE STARS Number 2
EP "SWING WITH BING Numbers 1 and 2
EP "RETURN TO PARADISE" R30018
EP "MERRY CHRISTMAS" Pts 1 and 2

PHOTOS Set of film stills (post ard size) from

SAY ONE FOR ME..ROAD TO BALI..ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS..MAN ON FIRE..HIGH SOCIETY ROAD TO HONG KONG..HIGH TIME..ANYTHING GOES..WHITE CHRISTMAS..LITTLE BOY LOST.. COUNTRY GIRL.. - all at 2/6

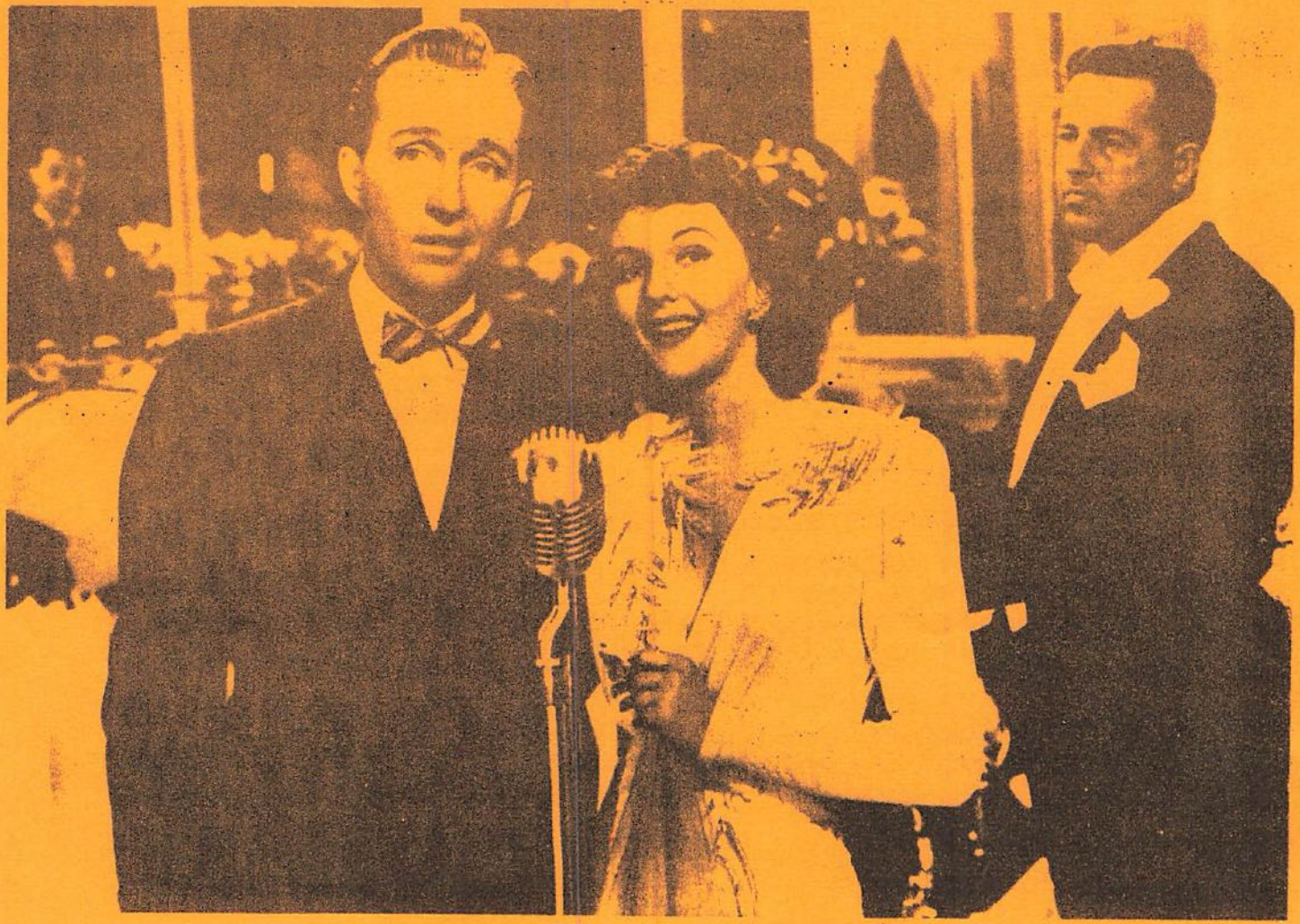
Various film stills 1931 to 1936

DISCOGRAPHIES THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY Pts One and Two - The 'V' disc discography.

11 editions of CROSBY COLLECTOR No's 3 to 13
3 editions of BINGANG - 1964
60 editions of CROSBY POST - April 1958 to June 1965
8 editions of BING - Jan 65 to Jan 67

THE GOLDEN YEARS, quarterly journal of THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY
January 25th 1969 edition - 4/6 (50cents) post paid direct from Frank Murphy

"RHYTHM ON THE RIVER"



"RHYTHM ON THE RIVER"

British 'U' Certificate Original running time:- 92 minutes

Screenplay by DWIGHT TAYLOR, based on a story by BILLY WILDER & JACQUES THERY

Director of photography ... ... TED TETZLAFF, ASC
Art direction.. ... ... HANS DREIER)
ERNST FEGTE)
Edited by.. ... ... HUGH BENNETT
Costumes by ... ... EDITH HEAD

Sound recording ... ... EARL HAYMAN / RICHARD OLSON
Musical direction.. ... ... VICTOR YOUNG
Musical adviser ... ... ARTHUR FRANKLIN

Songs/ What would Shakespeare have said?
That's for me
When the moon comes over Madison Square
Rhythm on the river
Ain't it a shame about Mame?
Only forever

Lyrics by:- Johnny Burke Music by:- James V. Monaco

I don't want to cry any more..by Victor Schertzinger

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

New York Premiere, Paramount Theatre, August 28th, 1940

British release, December 23rd, 1940

CAST

BOB SUMMERS.....BING CROSBY
CHERRY LANE.....MARY MARTIN
OLIVER COURTNEY.....BASIL RATHBONE
BILLY STARBUCK.....OSCAR LEVANT
CHARLIE GOODRICH.....OSCAR SHAW
UNCLE CALEB.....CHARLEY GRAPEWIN
MILLIE STARLING.....LILLIAN CORNELL
WESTLAKE.....WILLIAM FRAWLEY
COUNTRY COUSIN.....JEAN CAGNEY
AUNT DELIA.....HELEN BERTRAM
JOHN SCOTT TROTTER.....HIMSELF
TEDDY GARDNER.....KEN CARPENTER
BERNARD SCHWARTZ.....CHARLES LANE
SAXOPHONIST.....HARRY BARRIS
and WINGY MANONE AND HIS BAND

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

My wife is always telling me that I don't pay bills promptly enough. I'm forced to agree (even tried writing an article for Frank Murphy by candlelight), and yet when it comes to paying the annual television licence, I do it without any of the usual scowlings and mutterings.

Not that I am a T/V fan. "George and the Dragon" never gets past the opening credits with me and as far as I am concerned "Honey Lane" and "Coronation Street" should have been demolished long ago.

No....I pay up cheerfully and willingly simply because, for me, television has been the door through which it has been possible to renew acquaintance with films which at one time I had given up hope of ever seeing again.

When I first saw such gems as "Sing You Sinners" - "Holiday Inn" - "Birth of the Blues" - "Going My Way" and the riotous "Roads", I never dreamed that one day it would be possible to view them from the comfort of one's own fireside.

So you can understand and appreciate my frame of mind when I settled down to watch "Rhythm on the River" recently. I enjoyed it just as much this time as when I first saw it twenty odd years ago, (to be precise, and if anybody cares, I took my very first girl friend to see it at the Manchester Odeon (Paramount as it was called then) back in that cold cold winter of January 1941).

"Rhythm on the River" was a particularly good example of Bing's self admitted policy of surrounding himself with notable talent. How indeed could a film miss with such an array of talent as Basil Rathbone, Mary Martin, Oscar Levant and Wingy Manone and his Band, who were assisted by Harry Barris who had a little more dialogue than his usual one or two lines. As an added bonus for Crosbyites there was the welcome appearance of John Scott Trotter and Ken Carpenter.

I suppose that by today's standards, "Rhythm on the River" would be dismissed as typical Hollywood hokum of the 1940's. This may well be true, but how infinitely preferable to today's offerings with the emphasis on showing "life as it really is - man".

footnote/

Some collectors will already possess a copy of the radio broadcast from the race-track at Del Mar. This was the occasion of the West Coast Press Premiere of "Rhythm on the River" and the film was shown on a large screen erected on the track, in front of the grandstand. Preceding the film, Paramount threw a party and in the broadcast Bing and Mary Martin sing all the songs from the picture and during the show, manage to introduce various celebrities, including Victor Schertzinger, Pat O'Brien, John Scott Trotter and Johnny Burke.

.....RB

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

RCA VICTOR RECORDS have informed Alan Lurie that the following LP's have now been deleted from their catalogue:-

HOW THE WEST WAS WON
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE

Any members who are not already in possession of either of these wonderful albums are advised to visit their local record shops in the hopes that they may still have an odd copy of either album in stock.

When recently joined member of the ICC, ROBERT JONES of North Shields, Northumberland, England, told me he had written a letter to Bing, we were very impressed. Robert, at the age of 18 is one of the new group of collectors and admirers showing up in the current club file and among his personal Crosby favourites he lists Bing and Gary's SAM'S SONG and the current favourite WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS. Robert is also the proud possessor of a personal reply from Bing which it gives us pleasure to re-print.

****

BING CROSBY HOLLYWOOD January 10, 1969

Dear Mr Jones;

Thanks for your letter. I'm delighted to learn that you've joined the International Crosby Circle, and that you've found friends in the group with similar tastes and opinions.

I know that you'll get some enjoyment out of this association.

I have a new album coming out, with some more songs like the one that was on the BBC New Years Eve. I hope that you like this album, too.

All best wishes to you and your friends -

As ever

Signed BING

BC;Im Bing Crosby

MINI-CLUB MEETING REPORT

The date was Sunday January 19th, the place, the home of Frank and Alma Murphy, those present;- BILL BELL, JAMES KENNEDY, MICHAEL CRAMPTON, EDDIE PURCELL, ROBERT JONES, ALAN MAUGHAN, and paying a quick courtesy visit en route for a planned night out were JOHN MAUGHAN and KEN ROBINSON.

Michael had arrived the previous evening for a quick weekend visit to discuss some club details and the occasion prompted this short, nothing deathless-type mini-meeting. None-the-less it was a highly enjoyable event lasting from 6pm to 'very late' during which time we got through quite a few 'Crosby years' and as a special treat JOHNNY JONES sent over a terrific personal tape he'd received from our Australian buddy KEITH HYDE on which Keith, his family, and fellow Australian member FRANK WINTERBINE and his family including 11 year old scout member PAUL WINTERBINE who's greetings came over loud and clear - the banjo plucking and the happy singing came over loud, clear and well Keith - Johnny also sent over part of a HOLLYWOOD PALACE show featuring Bing singing with non other than TINY TIM - an item highly enjoyed by our younger members The whole event was a very happy trailor to our more expansive May meeting.

KEITH HYDE'S GUIDE TO BETTER LISTENING OF THOSE OLD AND RARES

When one acquires a rare Bing record, it is indeed a memorable day. But what steps do you take to preserve the disc and ensure that you will get the absolute maximun of wear and the finest reproduction possible from the performance, and I don't mean by the use of expensive and cumbersome equipment.

I have found, by following a few simple rules, excellent results can be obtained from these old 78's shellac pressings on even the most moderately priced equipment.

Firstly, let us start with the disc itself. When many of these old 78's are discovered, they have been kicking around in Junk Shops, attics, garages etc for many years, and the grooves have accumulated quite a lot of dust and grime, which, naturally acts as an abrasive when played repeatedly and van cause irreparable damage and permanent distortion of re-production. But even if the disc on appearances seems to be in a clean and excellent condition, it is surprising how much the performance can be improved by giving the disc a good 'bath'. But hold it - before rushing off to do this, I would suggest that the first step would be to transfer the disc to tape, as so many of the old and rare discs are irreplaceable and are so notoriously fragile. Accidents will happen to even the most careful of collectors and so to ensure that the performance will not be lost forever through breakage, the disc should be wiped carefully with a soft damp cloth and transferred to tape immediataly.

Having satisfied ourselves that if an accident should happen at least all will not be lost, as we now at least have a tape 'dubb' of it - so we now turn our attention once more to the disc. The record should first be given a mild bath in lukewarm water, dipping the grooves in and rotating the disc carefully in the hands. It is noted that it is wise to use a plastic tub or large dish, rather than a porcelin hand basin, just in case one develops 'butter-fingers'. Avoid wetting the label as much as possible as this can be damp wiped later. A gentle application of a mild soap such as 'Velvet' or 'Lux flakes' first applied to the hands rather than direct to the record grooves and gently 'worked in' with a soft shaving brush will soon loosen up the dust, sludge and grime, after which it can be rinsed in lukewarm free running water.

After drying with a soft, clean lint free cloth it should be polished with one of the 'anti static' cleaning cloths which are readily available at your local record shop. Some collectors are in favour of the cleaning liquids which are now available in pressure pack form, as this will tend to laminate any hair cracks and moisturize and condition the disc against 'aging' and 'drying out'. I say 'tend to' because I believe there is no actual proof of this and time alone will tell. But I would sug est if this liquid is used, it should be used sparingly and after spraying it should be wiped with an anti static cloth held lightly against the grooves whilst the disc is rotating on the turntable so as to ensure equal distribution. It is as well to remember to get into the habit of handling any record by the centre and outer edge and to avoid as much as possible 'fingering' of the actual grooves.

Having satisfied ourselves that we now have the disc as clean as possible we return to our tape recorder, transfer the disc to tape again, so that, initially, at least, the performance can be enjoyed, studied, and analized over and over again without any additional wear and tear on the disc, or ensuring drop of quality. When taping, in many cases a vast improvment can be made by 'filtering out' the high frequency hiss, surface noise and needle scratch. Old and rare collectors items can be greatly improved sometimes when dubbing from disc to tape by the use of a filter equalizer and by careful use of the various equalization settings a remarkable improvement can be achieved in many insrances on the final taped recording. No hard and fast rules can apply here and complete satisfaction can only be achieved by trial and error, because there is such a number of characteristics whilst most prominent in some recordings, are missing entirely in others.

However, it must not be mistak n that this equipment, or juggling of treble or

bass is absolutely necessary to make a successful tape of an old and rare shellac In fact, except in extreme cases, a successful tape can be made by recording direct from turntable to tape input. In fact many purists insist that the recording not be filtered or fooled with in any way what-so-ever. Disc cleaned - yes. But then just taped direct. Some even claim that a little surface hiss adds to the charm and appreciation of an old and rare performance and I must confess that for myself, I find that this is so.

There is another important factor to be considered when taping or playing an old 78 shellac and that is that many of Bing's early recordings were made to be played with a 2 . 5 stylus. Most later shellacs were made for a 3 mil tip, therefore each playing with the modern day 78 stylus will increase the surface noise. Not noticeably at first, but more evident with each repeated playing. Not all the early shellacs however were cut for the 2.5 needle tip and short of using a photomicrgraph the only way to be sure is by trial and error. But having had this demonstrated to me just recently. I can assure you the difference in reproduction is truly dramatic.

There are obvious advantages in the use of light weigh pick-up arms, preferably with counter balance which obviously will give much less wear and tear to the disc and improve the re-production and needless to say the use of a record changer is definately not recommended, particularly when playing old and rare discs, no matter how fool proof the makers may claim them to be.

Whilst on the subject of stylus it is interesting to note the schools of thought on diamond and saphire tips. These days most collectors seem to prefer the semi permanent diamond to the softer saphire. The diamond being much harder and therefore more durable, but the purists will still stick to the thorn (or wooden needle) or even the old soft steel needles (both I believe being hard to obtain these days Their augument being it is far better to wear out the needle than to wear out the disc with a hard point needle. Be that as it may. I feel that with such light weight pick-up arms being available these days, this factor dose not enter into record wear provided the stylus is checked regularly for any sign of wear and as soon as this is apparent it should be discarded immediately and replaced with the new appropriate stylus. It is much better to be pound wise than penny foolish and the results will speak for themselves.

Finally, I would suggest that our rare shellacs be placed in an appropriate plastic bag which should be cleaned of dust etc inside and out and placed in a strong cardboard cover and filed away on it's edge away from any extreme heat or cold but this will come in another article titled RECORD STORAGE which I intend to present later.

To the older and more ardent collectors of early Bing shellacs the points covered may seem elementary, but I intend this article as a guide for the"newer chums"

One never knows, one day you may end up with one of the old rare and priceless 78rpm shellacs, passed on to you by some well meaning kind hearted person, who has been ignorant unfortunately of these simple but most necessary facts. Remember that old 78rpm shellac which may be worthless to you, may be priceless to some other collector. So always treat these old discs with respect and try to develop the idea that it is a crime to wifully damage or destroy an old disc.

IT HAS SERVED SOMEONE WELL-SO LET US IN TURN, SERVE IT WELL KH

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EDITORS NOTE

Its not often we turn to the important points raised in Keith's excellent article and we are therefore indebted to him for taking time out to list some very useful points indeed, for with 78's becoming more and more valuable to collectors we need to continually look to their careful preservation.

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Mick Drury continues.....

the heading 'Cinema' April 7th. I quote.....

THE GROANER: Out of Paramount Studio last week came some of the most uninhibited , daffy nonosense to hit the U.S. screen since the heyday of Harold LLoyd. It was "Road to Zanzibar" and its principle assets were two recruits from radio who bounce gaily through its insanities like a pair of playful puppies. For one of them, Bob Hope, it was the tenth film in a new and rapidly rising movie career; for the other, Bing Crosby, a dulcet, broken-toned singer who has confounded all the rules of show business for more than ten years, it was his 24th feature-length picture.

"Road to Zanzibar", part radio, part vaudeville, part lunacy, is not a 100% movie. That is as it should be, for Crosby, its star, is not a 100% star. He is a law student who turned to singing as a gag. He has never studied music or voice; yet jobs kept turning up - each a little better than the last. He always falls uphill. Once on a vacational trip to Los Angeles, Bing and his friend from Spokane, Al Rinker, ran out of money. They polished up a couple of tunes, landed a job in a local theater. Al played the piano and Bing stood by, tapping a cymbal while they harmonised on some spoody ditties like "Paddlin' Madeline Home" and "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue". Paul Whiteman heard them, offered them 150 dollars a week to join his show.
That was Bing's start. From then on he violated the strictest tenets of success. Whiteman let him go because he was lazy. He immediately landed a better job at Los Angeles' Cocoanut Grove - which fired him for disappearing on long weekends. Mack Sennett hired him to act in some movie shorts. Prohibition booze gave him laryngitis, and he received a 5000 dollar-a-week contract.

Like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey and Bill Tilden, who thrilled the fans of the 20's, Bing knows how to please the crowd. That "The Groaner's" voice is America's voice depends upon the fact that Crosby sings every song - whether "Mexicali Rose" or "Silent Night" - as though he felt it was the best song ever written.....End of quote.
(The Capsule/1941 is a time/life book and is 1.65 dollars.)

Yet another unexpected treat came to me by the reading onto tape of a couple of chapters from Bob Hope's book "I Owe Russia 1200 Dollars" by an old friend and tape correspondent Geoffrey Cook. In the bit I have heard, Bing comes in for his usual quota of Hope diamond digs and I can't wait to read the rest!

Finally, a certain person of my aquaintance is to be observed these days crawling round like a one-eyed monster and snapping up tips on flash photography. So....be warned all ye intending visitors to the next I.C.C. meeting in Leeds, and bring along your make-up cases - though come-to-think-of-it, as I am the one passing out most of these tips, the chance of you ever seeing a successful print is very small!

I apologise if this seems to you to have turned out to read like a Book Review but it just happens that my Crosbyana surprises came from that direction these last few months.

My wish to you for this New Year is for Health and Peace - if you have these two you can make your own happiness.

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So far, the best modern rhythmic singer by far who has come to light is BING CROSBY....Bing is one of the three famous "Rhythm Boys" who until recently were one of the features limbs of Paul Whiteman's band. He also sings the solo vocal choruses in many of Whiteman's records, the latest being "Song of the Dawn" by Paul Whiteman's Band (Columbia CB87) which in every way is a fine piece of work.

But to enjoy Bing at his best and to obtain an opportunity to study and recognise the artistry of his work one needs to hear the solo records he has made from time to time for the American Columbia. These records are all available to the English Columbia Company and if issued would, I am sure, be a success. But having this great artist, Columbia sit on his records, and for some reason best known to them, the British public is denied the pleasure of seeing them.

Of course there are other singers devoteing their talents to this form of interpretation, who are well worth hearing even though they fall short of the very ambitious standards set by Bing Crosby.

Of the English vocalists the best all round is probably Pat O'Malley of Jack Hylton's Band.....Edgar Jackson - The Gramophone - July 1930.

Bing Crosby, who has already played a priest in "Say One for Me", "The Bells of St. Mary's" and "Going My Way" will play yet another priest in the film version of Nathaniel's West's novel "The Devil's Advocate". The theme.....a priest, about to die of cancer is chosen to investigate a candidate for sainthood in Southern Italy. If Bing can sing his way out of that one, I'd be surprised!.....Films & Filming - April 1963.

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I will start off by wishing all Club members all the very best for the New Year.--------On Wednesday Oct. 9th. I sat goggled eyed at the TV set

PETER WILSON continues.....

watching the "Dean Martin Show". The first half dragged by, then came the moment I'd been waiting for, Dean introduced his 'special' guest, Bing Crosby. The great man came on looking as relaxed as ever and joined Dean Martin in some of Al Jolson's songs. The programme finished with Bing, Dean and his other guest Lena Horne, forming a trio. I enjoyed the whole show, but I would have liked to hear Bing singing solo!

Our next glimpse of Bing on TV was just that! I saw the Bob Hope film "Jesse James" on ITV on Nov 17 - Bing appeared as a cowboy for about 5 seconds!

On the Morecambe and Wise show on BBC I (Dec 28) viewers 'heard' Bing singing with Satchmo Armstrong - Morecambe and Wise mimed to the record much to the delight of the audience.

But the biggest treat of all was on New Years Eve at 8 pm. on BBC I when we saw nearly an hour of Bing in "The Bing Crosby Special" in which Bing's guests were Bob Hope, Stella Stevens and the Supremes. I thought this show was one of the best Bing has ever done for TV! I particularly enjoyed the last scene in which Bing and the Supremes sang a few of today's pop songs!

Not one Crosby film over the Christmas holidays! Perhaps the TV companies have decided we've seen enough of "Holiday Inn" and "White Christmas" ! But that New Years Eve show was really great.

As I have often mentioned before, I am a great admirer of the late Michael Holliday - I bought one of his records over Christmas entitled "Holiday Mixture". On this LP he sings 12 songs, all of which which have been recorded by Bing! I'd like to quote some of the notes from the back of the sleeve:-

Now I doubt very much if Michael Holliday wanted to be known as "The English Bing Crosby" although the thought must inevitably have been in the minds of all who heard him. It would be impossible to list songs for Michael Holliday to sing that Bing himself hasn't already recorded during a 40 year recording career.....
.....Arthur Jackson.

Well, let's see what the "Old Groaner" has been singing lately.....

Oct 9..Guest on Dean Martin Show.....BBC I.
11..Gone Fishin'.....Radio.
16..Autumn leaves.....Radio.
19..Slow Boat to China.....Radio.
20..The Long Way Home.....Radio.
25..Home Cookin'.....Radio.
28..True Love.....Radio
30..Stop To The Rear.....Radio.
Nov 4..Don't fence me in.....Radio.
17..Guest in Bob Hope film "Jesse James".....ITV.
23 .Well did you evah.....Radio.
28..Ya'll come and Temptation.....Radio.
Dec4 ..Christmas in Killarney.....Radio.
10..Drummer Boy.....Radio.
12..White Christmas..... Radio.
14..White Christmas.....Radio
21..Silent Night.....radio.
28..Now You Has Jazz.....Played on Morecambe and Wise show BBC I.
31..The Bing Crosby Special.....BBC I.

Peter Wilson continues.....

and that's it for another session, so I'll sign off with

BEST REGARDS TO ALL.

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This is Part One of a undetermined number of articles based on.....

THE FOUR 'P's.

Premiums
Private Pressings
Prestigious Packaging
and
Piracy

Prestigious Packaging:

THE READERS DIGEST

It is highly unethical to begin a report to my readers across the face of the world by giving the credit line. Especially in the first paragraph. To do this without sounding as though I'm a staff member of The Reader's Digest Public Relations Department, is a most difficult assignment. But the complete success of this Home-Economics Report, rests completely on the shoulders of the staff of Readers Digest, Readers Digest Association, Pleasantville, New York.

When Mr. Nichols, Product Manager, contacted me I was delighted with his sincere efforts to help with a difficult task. "It's very seldom that we receive requests from reviewers for our products," stated Mr. Nichols, "but I'm willing to do my part to bring back so much wonderful music to not only the generations who remember the songs the first time around, but this and succeeding generations who have not been exposed as yet."

Mr. Nichols continued, "This business has become highly competitive....and highly successful for us. I can't divulge future sets now on the boards, but 1969 will offer some more of those wonderful sounds from the Victor vaults." I thanked the gentleman for his time and efforts.

There is one mystery that defies the experts. And that is how can records, some more than thirty years old, be boxed

FRED ROMANY continues.....

into multi-album sets, and sell anywhere from 11.99 dollars to 17.96 dollars ? One fellow critic claims that 'Out There' is a sea of 'Underground-Sophisticates' who are just awaiting their opportunity to crawl under the fences thrown up around the 'Rock' stations, hell-bent on destroying every R & R disc, and replacing them with the music the world really loves best. That is one answer, but I'd like to believe the following is true.

(a) Carefully selected material.

(b) Carefully re-mastered original tapes. (The stereo versions of these albums does not have that horrid echo-chamber sound. Instead there is an inspired interlacing from chanel to chanel with perfect overall background totality.)

(c) Each and every set comes with a well designed booklet featuring pictures, a history of the era, artist structure, and dates. (Any or all these factors are missing from most commercial discs released these days.

(d) Carefully designed sleeves, numbered, and completely listing songs and artists contained within.

(e) Last but by no means least, carefully constructed full-colour storing boxes, most with photos of the featured stars.

From this point on I'll bring into focus the latest albums issued. It would take pages to list every song and artist included in each set, so I will stick to just the historical milestones.

HEAR THEM AGAIN!!
122 Songs, 89 singers
Ten Long Playing Albums (17.96 dollars)

Album (I) THEY MADE SUCH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

The opening side covers a broad range in style and performances. Represented is Perry Como, Mario Lanza, David Rose, Gisele MacKenzie, Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald, Andy Russell, The Three Suns, Caterina Valente, Frankie Carle, Tony Martin.

Spot-light:
We Could Make Such Beautiful Music, (Buddy Clark with the Wayne King Orchestra)
It Isn't Fair (Don Cornell with The Sammy Kaye Orchestra)

FRED ROMARY continues.....

The few sides Buddy Clark made with Wayne King, have long been sought after collectors items.

Album (2) IT'S STILL A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

This album contains the best operatic voices of our time, doing Broadway melodies. Included are, Robert Merrill, Gladys Swarthout, James Melton, Jan Peerce, Nelson Eddy, Rise Stevens.

Spot-light:
The Green-eyed Dragon (John Charles Thomas)
September Song (Ezio Pinza)

But top honours out of the vocal field go to Morton Gould's Symphonic Band, for their fine rendition of Yankee Doodle.

Album (3) THE GREAT BANDS PLAY AGAIN
and
THE UNFORGETTABLE BLUES

Artists featured here are all from the Big Band days. If all the performers had to boil their collected works down to one side each, I feel sure they would have picked the recordings contained on this album. Represented are, Tommy Dorsey, Helen Forrest, Perez Prado, Jo Stafford, Dinah Shore, Duke Ellington Lena Horne, Morton Gould.

Spot-light:
The familiar There Are Such Things (Frank Sinatra with Tommy Dorsey and the Pied Pipers) is a very common example of easy accessible sound. Most collectors figure since they have that beat up old 78, they can always pick up a Dorsey album containing a re-mastered reproduction of the song. If that's what you think...you're wrong! Not too long ago Mr. Sinatra decided to fight Victor for using his voice under the Dorsey banner. To avoid lengthy court battles, RCA dropped all Dorsey Albums with the Sinatra voice on them. Now like the original 78, the micro-groove side is no longer available....except on this album.

all The Things You Are (Jack Leonard with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra)

FRED ROMARY continues.....

Stormy Monday Blues, a rare side, is one of the best ever cut by (Billy Eckstine with Earl Hines and His Orchestra).

Album (4) THE GREAT RHYTHM SINGERS

Cab Calloway, Lee Wiley, Billy Butterfield, Joe Mooney, Sauter-Finegan, Ella Fitzgerald, Maxine Sullivan, Claude Thornhill, Fats Waller, Mildred Bailey, Jack Teagarden, Paul Whiteman, Billie Holiday, Artie Shaw.

Spot-light:
Every side on this LP is perfect but the cream has to be Johnny Mercer with Benny Goodman doing Sent For You Yesterday And Here You Come Today. This is the hit revived a quarter century later by Joe Williams vocalizing with Count Basie.
Another lost cut is All Of Me with Connie Boswell and the Original Memphis Five. Connie was in perfect style and voice on this late 1950's side. The album long gone, and a collectors item never enjoyed the recorded sound that that this re-issue supports.
I Gotta Right To Sing The Blues (Louis Armstrong and his Orchestra) is a perfect example of Satchmo vintage 1932. This is a very rare 12" side featuring Scoville Brown's clarinet.

Album (5) THE MOVIE STARS SING AGAIN
and
REMEMBER WHEN ?

Artists represented are: Maurice Chvalier, Nelson Eddy & Jeanette MacDonald, Eleanor Powell, Alan Jones, Helen Kane, Gene Austin, Jack Smith (The Whispering Baritone), Beatrice Kay and Rudy Vallee.

Spot-light:
This disc contains some very rare items that are looked for day in and day out by not only Record Collectors, but by the strange world of Movie-Buffs.
Topping the list is You'd Be Surprised by Marilyn Monroe. Followed by Something's Gotta Give (Fred Astaire). This disc was a selection issued (or so they tell me) on a 45 extended play. Of course it ~~stems~~ from Fred's successful flick Daddy Long Legs.
We come next to Auf Wiedersehen, My Dear (Russ Columbo) and When Day Is Done (Paul

FRED ROMARY continues.....

Whiteman and the trumpet work of Henry Busse) - I need go no further!

Album (6) THE BIG POPULAR SINGERS

Tony Martin, Frank Sinatra, Lena Horne, Melachrino, Andy Williams, Eddie Fisher, Perry Como, Gogi Grant, Hugo Winterhalter, Dinah Shore.

Spot-light:
The outstanding cuts on this album have to be the flawless performance by Bing Crosby on I Surrender Dear. Gus Arnheim and his Cocoanut Grove Orchestra of course did the backing on this recording from January 1931.
The other outstanding memory is Dick Haynes with Tommy Dorsey doing the great standard Daybreak.

Album (7) GREAT MOMENTS FROM BROADWAY MUSICALS
and
GREAT MOMENTS FROM PORGY AND BESS
Artists represented: Alfred Drake, Jane Powell, Melachrino, Mary Martin, Helen Morgan, Ethel Merman, Eleanor Stober, Lawrence Tibbett, Helen Jepson.

Spotlight:
Again for memory value honours are bestowed on Fred Astaire for his version of I Love Louisa from the first recordings of Band Wagon. Readers Digest handled this Oct. 1931 recording with loving care. Leo Reisman and his Orchestra shine. This recording oddly enough was from Victor's experimental project offering for the first time phonograph records at 33-1/3 rpms.

Album (8) COUNTRY AND WESTERN AT ITS BEST
and
THE GOLDEN VOICES OF RADIO
Featuring: Eddie Arnold, Sons of the Pioneers, Chet Atkins, The Browns, Roy Rogers, Jim Reeves, First Piano Quartet, Jessica Dragonette, Kenny Baker, Morton Gould, Dennis Day,

Spot-light:
Those radio days were always beautiful for they accorded each and everyone who listened a chance to use their

minds. At the height, two performers enjoyed large audiences. They were Kate Smith when she sang Lazy River and Lanny Ross doing The Last Time I Saw Paris.

Album (9)

THE IMMORTALS
and
THE BIG ENTERTAINERS
Classical and popular entertainers included are:- Richards Crooks, Grace Moore, Enrico Caruso, Jose Iturbi, John McCormack, Marian Anderson, Lauriz Melchoir, Sophie Tucker, Alec Templeton, Martha Kitt and Spike Jones.

Spot-light:
Master showman Jimmy Durante joined together with opera star Helen Traubel to record The Song's Gotta Come From The Heart. A good move by the Victor people, for this disc is one of the finest ever recorded by both stars. A really funny side.

Every one loved and laughed when Fanny Brice appeared on stage and they stayed with her through her radio career. She can best be remembered for one recording that brought only tears to those who heard it. Yes, I'm speaking of My Man.

Album (10)

YOUR ALL-TIME HIT PARADE

A selection of best recordings from the mid-forties thru the mid-fifties starring; Perry Como, Harry Belafonte, Artie Shaw, Kitty Kallen, The Ames Brothers, Rosemary Clooney, Hugo Winterhalter, Eddie Heywood, Kay Starr, Eddie Fisher.

Of most interest on this LP is the bands By Vaughn Monroe. Currently riding the charts with a smash hit recording, he is beloved for his post war songs such as Ballerina, and Riders In The Sky.

There is no mystery involved for me why this set sells. Or for that matter of fact any Reader's Digest set. It's obvious....a mixture of fifty years of great musical heritage, the the finest in recording techniques, and a vast untouched audience via mail order, Mr. Nichols can well be proud of his organisation....for they care about the record buying public.

FRED ROMARY continues.....

THE MILLER MAGIC

The world shed a tear on December 15th. 1944 when it lost to a fog shrouded English Channel, the Magic that was known as GLENN MILLER. Only his spirit continued on and no one ever forgot the music he made between 1928 and 1944.

This, the 24th anniversary of his untimely passing, Readers Digest Association has released THE UNFORGETTABLE GLENN MILLER. A collection of 70 prized recordings featuring all the favourite songs, Miller Medleys, and singing stars. They are all here, Ray Eberle, Marion Hutton, Paula Kelly and The Modernaires, Skip Nelson, Pat Friday, Tex Beneke, Bobby Hackett, Billy May, Hal McIntyre, and so many more.

Miller who was to start his career arranging for Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey studio groups between 1928 and 1931, laid the ground work for the most popular group Ray Noble had, circa 1935. When his big orchestra was formed and made it's spectacular opening in the Spring of 1939 all the elements were in place to make The Miller Magic a love affair with the world that would never grow cold. For every band or orchestra that comes along, borrow liberally from the Miller mold of arrangements.

This latest presentation from Reader's Digest offers, as stated before, the familiar million sellers, but also enclosed are many selections never before on long playing records anywhere. As a bonus there's a handsome booklet detailing the GlennMiller story. I advise lovers of this sound to invest in a lasting thing. Below are samples of what you will find.....

THE UNFORGETTABLE GLENN MILLER

70 of his greatest original recordings
(6) Long playing records. 12.99 dollars.

Spot-light:
Just a few of the jewels never before on LP
are; CROSSTOWN (Jack Lathrop vocal)
CARIBBEAN CLIPPER
PAVANNE
BABY ME (Kay Starr vocal)
SLOW FREIGHT
DREAMSVILLE, OHIO (Ray Eberle and The Modernaires)
SHAKE DOWN THE STARS (Ray Eberle)
I'M STEPPING OUT WITH A MEMORY (Ray Eberle)
THIS CHANGING WORLD (Ray Eberle)
THE STORY OF A STARRY NIGHT (Ray Eberle)

WRAP YOUR TROUBLES IN DREAMS

STAVE MASON 1969.....is just about
the same as....STEVE MASON 1939.

"I played my favourite character 'The Crooner' in a lower than low budget film called.....what else ?.....'The Crooner', and it was a hell-of-a-lot-of-fun for me. But in came the letters saying, 'I saw the movie because you were in it..!!! So you think you are Crosby or Columbo! Then you begin to think you owe something to

Fred Romary continues.....

the record producers, and TV personalities who have you on their shows and you think further that you have an image to keep up. And you'd better be careful what you do with it!!!"

It's a dangerous business to read between the lines, besides, the den-music room, doesn't look too uncomfortable; it is carpeted three inches thick, heavy bright curtains to hold in audio quality, and arrayed with thousands of dials and controls of a real Hi-Fi 'Bug'. Here in his hour of recovery from over work and fatigue, poking unenthusiastically at his ham and tomato sandwich, sipping the one cup of coffee a day the doctors allow, is a man whose new soft comments on his career and personal life invite insertions. Here is a guy who has played 'The Crooner' exclusively for over three decades. "Just once I'd like to be a Jolson or Durante."

It seems the 'Image' has paid off and the Clubs all make money, and that peaceful voice loved by countless fans, singing songs with morals, has this reporter wondering whether it's all been woth the effort.

"Thirty years!" Steve Mason said, throwing his feet up on the coffee table, looking puzzled. "I've always worried about over-exposure, although I'm seldom exposed too much on any one show, which is alright. Up until I fell off stage I worked a great deal, which was good. I take long weekends during the week. Some 'cat' wanted me to front The Steve Mason Show, six nights a week, but if a show carries your brand, you have to be on the show all the time."

Instead, Mason began doing guest shots on television in the mid-fifties, and he is still going strong. Mason claims to have remained constant both on and off screen as the scenes change. On screen the shirt is still a light blue and the ever present bow tie (a throw back from the 30's) the tux, the characterizations and timing still precise, the actions....as always, arms outstretched or the right hand thrown carelessly into his jacket pocket. Off screen his voice is slightly husky and his hair has begun to thin out but his eyes still give direct answers.

"I don't believe I've changed much over the years. I still fall for every gag the comics pull on me at the club. Becoming a singer just happened. There was never a doubt in my mind. I remember one press agent saying to me when I first started singing in Clubs, "What did you do over the weekend ? Did you cover 'The Street?" I said no, I picked up some Crosby records and stayed home and just learned, and learned. Nothings changed, in fact just this past weekend I picked up some Crosby reissues. Here it's thirty years later, and nothings changed."

Steve pulled a pipe from somewhere and fiddles it a bit then he poured himself another cup of coffee, hoping no one was keeping count. You can't say this most durable star is uninteresting when he say cautiously, "I just do a few notes here, a few notes there year in, year out. You can get cancelled for that."
Or when the prototype 'Crooner'....sturdy man who has been part of the New York Spot landscape since the late 1930's remains a man apart. "Mason knows all the people in New York,.....he knows all the people in the world," Jim Yohan Steve's Manager, said a bit loftily. Mason concurs. "I'm afraid I live differently than people thin singers should live. I'm not a Sinatra or Martin, I guess. Fran sometimes ropes me into cooking. We go out quite a bit, but we live simply."

Fred Romary continues.....

A twiflo possimistic; mild and at times over-giving in conversation; sometimes self-effacing (I'm a singer with few words because outside of music there's not much for me to say....and it's hard to talk about what you sing." Mason at an age that doesn't feel, he says, like the summer of life. "You just feel you're 45; its just another candle on the cake."

He came a long way from his upstate home to his status as a Top Citizen of the Bronx who has won the honour to go his own mild way, with a craving for privacy that can only be equaled by a bear looking for a cave to sleep in during the winter months. Steve in uncertain about the world around him and this makes home a refuge from unexplainable happenings. "I'm frustrated by lots of things! The war bugs me. Nobody thought it would developo into the thing that it did. I don't believe performers should encourage people on TV to vote for so and so! And I can't dig singers who make their living depending on long hair and multi-coloured tights!!"

"I haven't travelled a great deal out of the country. I'd love to play golf in England, Scotland and Ireland. Now that is is my idea of a wonderful fun trip!-all those wonderful old golf courses.....Bing told me about on several occasions. At this stage I don't know if I'd travel easy, I like to get home more these days. I'm not too anxious about hitting the road. One thing though, I'm determined to do some concerts in Europe. Think that this will be the summer....yes, I'm almost sure about it. It is tough moving the family on such trips."

Even on stage, Mason is warm and orderly. There is no horse-play or kidding around....only the familiar everlasting air of peaceable professionalism. It is stated he can be stern and a serious perfectionist, but it never spills over into arrogance. A long time business associate commented recently, "This guy wears well. He's got a level act of tested material. You come away feeling good, and every song was meant for you." When he is between shows, he sits in his dressing room and plots his next moves in finding alternate takes of vintage recordings. He circles names, numbers, auction lists. He seldom ever worries how the next audience will respond to him.

A few seasons ago Bob Hope wrote a letter to Frank Sinatra and the subject was his handing down the reigns as host of the Oscar show to Nancy's father. It was quite a Christmas car for Sinatra:

Dear Frank,

One Monday night soon is going to be the most hectic adventure of you life. When you step up there for the first time as a emcee of the Academy Awards Show, be ready for the roof to cave in. That's the only thing that's not happened to me in the ten years I have been emcee....and it's about due.

I did my first Oscar show in 1940BT....before television... and despite all the ad libs worked over in advance I learned to expect the unexpected.

The best performances of the year are inariably given by the losers. My heart is with them: "I'm here for the annual insult... I'm always a bridesmaid....the fact is I'm here against my doctor's orders. He wanted my tickets."

 Fred Romary continues.....

The emcee usually makes at least on hilarious ad lib. Donald O'Connor broke me up when he said, "I could have won the Oscar except for one thing. They gave the part to Shirley Booth."

Jerry Lewis brought down the house with "There's a new new trend in pictures today...expense. War and Peace cost over seven million dollars. That's more than a real war costs."

IT'll be hard for anyone to top Jack Benny's quip. "Comics never win Oscars." he said, "so I've concluded I better make a picture without laughs. They tell me I've come close already."

No one can guess what an individual will do or say when he stands before a microphone clutching the little gold statuette. Ray Milland was literally speechless when he won for "The Lost Weekend" Gary Cooper could only say 'Shucks' when he won his in 1942 for Sergeant York. Jane Wyman combined truth with humour back in 1949 when she won for playing a deaf-mute. She said,"I accept this gratefully. For once I kept my mouth shut. I think I'll do it again."

Some conceited actors become remarkably honest and admit they don't deserve all the credit. Usually they deliver long speeches thanking everyone from the producer and director to the little people....referring undoubtedly to the dwarfs, pygmies and elves who worked on the film. But this is phoney modesty and it once became too much for writer Donald Ogden Stewart. Accepting an award for best screen play he endeared himself to me saying, "There has been so much niceness here tonight that I'm happy to say that I'm entirely responsible for the success of The Philadelphia Story. Nobody turned a finger to help me,"

And before Grace Kelly became a Princess she won an Oscar for The Country Girl. She made the film with a rather pudgy singer of sorts....I cant recall his name. With tears flooding her eyes the proper Philadelphia girl said fellingly, "This is the only time in my life I ever wished I drank or smoked."

That Monday night to come is bound to have some sentiment, though it will be hard to top that night in 1949 when Walter and John Huston won Oscars for the same picture. In his acceptance speech Walter brought a lump to my heart when he said, "A long time ago, I brought up a boy and told him, 'Some day write a good part for your old man.' Well, by golly, he did."

There may be some embarrassing moments , like the time back in 1934 when Will Rogers was emcee. He opened the envelope and said, "Come and get it, Frank." Frank Capra was about 40 feet from his chair when re realised that Will was motioning to Frank LLoyd the real winner for Cavalcade. Capra described his return to his seat as "the longest crawl in history."

I don't know whether there's a surprise Oscar in store for you this year Frank. If not, it's not because you won't deserve it. You'll be playing your toughest role before the most critical audience in the world. And after this most exciting crazy night, you can duet with me on my favourite song. - "Thanks for the memory." Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Frank,

Bob Hope.

Fred Romary continues.....

Let A Smile Be Your Umbrella

Here is a collection of some of the best jokes of 1968. Each was said by one of Bing Crosby's pals. They may not go over big at everyones club meetings...but you might get some mileage out of them. So the laughs on:

PHIL HARRIS: "You know how you can tell a real rich boy from Georgia ? He's the one who's got two cars jacked up in the front yard."

JACKIE GLEASON: "There are 10 million women who take birth-control pills. Those women are called activists, modernists, progressives, free thinkers. The 500 million women who don't take birth-control pills....they're called "Mama".

BOB HOPE: "The tipping situation in our country is really getting out of hand. I sat in a restaurant for 25 minutes waiting to be served. Finally the waiter came over and I said to him, "What do you recommend?" He said..."twenty percent of the check."

JACK BENNY: "Any man who thinks he is smarter than his wife is married to an intelligent women."

BING CROSBY: "A priest was travelling for the first time on a jet flight to California. He seemed a little nervous, and the stewardess asked him if he would care for a drink. No, thanks, he said. It's too close to the main office."

DEAN MARTIN: "If you obey all the signs you see in a large city you can get into plenty of trouble. For example, I was trying to cross Vine In Hollywood one evening. Because the light was red, I waited obediently. Then a green sign lit up. It read, 'Walk' so I got out of my car."

GEORGE BURNS: "Two partners in the mens clothing business are discussing vacations. Max says, I'm going to Rome to have an audience with the Pope. When Max returns his partner says, Well, what kind of fellow is the Pope ? Says Max, 'A 39 short.'"

FRANK SINATRA: " Two martians land on earth. One of them walks up to a fire hydrant and says, 'Take me to your leader.' The other martian says, 'What are you talking to him for ? He's only a kid."

(and to cap it all off...we have Dean again)

DEAN MARTIN: "I learned from my son that 12 Bunnies from the Playboy Club were living in our Vegas hotel, so I told him if we ever meet any of them in the elevator...don't call me Dad. Call me Dean."

THE FUNNY OLD HILLS

We haven't had a Sense of Humour Quiz so far...so do you feel up to one ? If you are new to quizs (for which, I regret to say, there are no prizes), here are the simple rules.

Fred Rosary continues.....

Below you will find a few true famous-people jokes. In each case three possible witty retorts are given, and you're supposed to check off the one the person really made.

I. GROUCHO MARX boarded a plane once and asked the hostess if he could smoke a cigar. Ordinarily, this is discouraged, but the hostess was impressed by the famed clown. She replied, "I suppose you can smoke it as long as you don't annoy the lady passengers." Groucho quipped:
a. "You mean I have a choice ?"
b. "Dont they have any cigars of their own ?"
c. "Don't worry.....it's only brown marijuana."

2. LADY NONE-SUCH ONCE sent an invitation to GEORGE BERNARD SHAW stating: Lady None-Such will be at home from 4:30 to 6:30 on Thursday next." Shaw scribbled back:
a. "Splendid....a woman's place is in the home."
b. "So will Mr. Shaw."
c. "You mean p.m. or a.m. ?"

3. BING CROSBY was playing one of those pro-celeb charity matches with DEAN MARTIN. Dean sliced his ball into the rough, and it landed in the crotch of a tree. "Gee Bing," he moaned. "how would you play that ball ?" Bing said:
a. "With a billiard cue."
b. "Fast, before a bird hatches it."
c. "Under an assumed name."

4. Quite a few years ago, BOB HOPE was playing a night-club date, and a drunk interrupted his routine with, "Ah, shut up....you're terrible!" Hope shot back:
a. "Well, you're not exactly a Theatre Guild Production yourself."
b. "Have a care, sir.....you are speaking of the man I love."
c. "I didn't know Crosby had any relatives in this town."

SCORING: If you got two right you're "hip". Three right is excellent. If you did better than that, you should be a professional gag-writer.

ANSWERS: 1. - a.
2. - b.
3. - c.
4. - b.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Alf Farrow here.....I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Fred Rosary for his excellent sleeve notes on the back of the sleeve of "Thoroughly Modern Bing". Very interesting and concise notes Fred, - well chosen words and no tongue in the cheek ? I must confess that that this LP, when I saw it in the shops, did not raise much interest in me, because I do not like Up, Up and Away and Chim, Chim Cheree - they bore me rigid! Anyway the likes overwhelmed the dislikes and I bought it and I found myself not disliking those two tunes so much - I wonder why ? Must be the Crosby magic! He certainly brings a fresh approach to a song no matter how many times it has previously been performed. In'Where the rainbow ends' I closed my eyes and was transported back to 194.....! Lovely Bing and congrats again, Fred.

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Firstly, a Happy New Year to all ""BING" readers.
My report will be much shorter than usual for this issue, since I've left it a little late in the day to burden the editor with many pages to type. Now to the news.

Late 1968 brought us the Apollo space shot and also Longines Volume 2 and since you will, no doubt, be very much more interested in the latter, here are the details:-

BING CROSBY'S TREASURY - LONGINES S.S.
THE SONS I LOVE (mono or stereo)
released December 1968 in Britain.
In addition to Volume I songs:
Marie - That old gang of mine - River stay way from my door - What'll I do - Balling the Jack - The song is ended - I've heard that song before - Remember - Puttin' on the Ritz - Thank you for a lovely evening - Love makes the world go round - Sentimental gentleman from Georgia - There's danger in your eyes, cherie - Say it isn't so - Say Si Si - Friendly persuasion - I hear music - How come you do me like you do - Dance with a dolly.

PLUS -- A BONUS RECORD of original evergreens on a 12" LP.

10 tracks.

SIDE ONE: Blue of the night - Sweet and lovely - Out of nowhere - June in January - Goodnight sweetheart.

SIDE TWO: Just one more chance - Love is just around the corner - Easy to remember - Let me call you sweetheart - Moonlight becomes you.

This magnificent set of 7 records is obtainable from:-

MRS S. M. SINDEN
Secretary,
Longines Symphonette Society,
98 Church Road,
HOVE. SUSSEX.

Price £7/18/6 plus 8/6d postage.

If you don't think that Bing can sing anymore, then you must buy this set. Bing is singing with real enthusiasm and he is in exceptionally good voice at this late stage in his singing career. Please buy this one!

The AMOS LP with the following titles is nearly ready to enter the shops in the U.S.A.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

November 21st. 1968, Bing cut the following new tracks:-

Those were the days - Hey Jude - It's all in the game - The straight life - Lonely Street - More and more - Little green apples.

These sides were recorded for Jimmy Bowens Amos Productions, the people who are the brains behind Sinatra and Martin at Repriso. Singles and an album may be issued.

Some further album news from America is as follows:-
The Encores of the thirties LP (2 record set) is out and it contains just one Bing track and this is - Brother can you spare a dime ? - which appears on LP for the first time.
If you wish to get this 2 record set and the Amos 12" LP the prices are 12.5 dollars and 7.50 dollars respectively and this covers postage and insurance. If you want either of these, write to me and I'll get them for you.

YESTERDAYS RADIO:-

Amalgamated Records
Box 341
Cooperstation
Price 10 dollars NYC New York 10003

Yesterdays radio contains no Bing, but with the set you get a very rare FREE Bing Crosby radio LP containing:- "Bing Crosby's first broadcast 1931" and "Mister Soft-soap 1934".
The treasury can be obtained from the above address.

A VISITOR

From records to the people who collect them. Ken Hoyle, who hails from Harrogate dropped by one evening in January for a Bing session and he announced that he had retired from his work and was now beginning to find the time to enjoy, leisurely, his Bing Crosby collection.
May we wish you a long Crosbyful and very happy retirement, Ken ?

23 Lovaine Place

I was fortunate to spend the 18/19th of January at the home of our Secretary and whilst I was there, Frank, with typical cordiality, laid on a small meeting in my honour.

In addition to 4 teenage Bing fans, friends who came along were Bill Bell, John Maughan, Ken Robinson, Jim Moore and his friends. The food, conversation and warm reception were greatly appreciated, Frank.
Hardly anything delights me more than being amongst people who enjoy the recorded works of Bing Crosby.
The records featured, as far as I can remember, were:-

Longines Vol 2.
Modern Bing.
Bing with a beat.
Travellin' two beat.
Autobiography and others.

We also heard the voices of Johnny Jones and Keith Hyde on tape. These two members do a great job for the ICC. Also I saw the new Murphy arrival, Paul - he's just becoming aware of Bing's voice!
My sincere thanks to Frank and Alma.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

5 EXLEY ROAD, KEIGHLEY.

This is a small semi-detached house in a pleasant outskirt of Keighley, beautifully kept by George Smith and his wife. Ronee And George played host to myself, my girlfriend and mother recently, and yet again I enjoyed a full day! - listening to Bing Crosby. Do I hear more Bing than any member of this Circle ?

George has an almost full set of the original Columbias in mint condition and we played all these! - on one of the finest radio-grams in the world, a Bang Olufson. John and Unis, who live in the house which borders the bottom of George's garden decided after our little meeting that they would join the Circle. We bid you a most warm welcome, John and Unis!

That's about all the news for this issue friends, the provisional date for the next ICC meeting at my home is OCTOBER 5th. 1969 - and I am already at work with preparations, which I hope will make this the best event so far. 1968 was a continueing good year for Bing and the ICC and Crosby record releases, let's hope that 1969 can be it's equal. I'm happy to be associated with the ICC, which works in a friendly atmosphere and look forward to continued co-operation throughout 1969.

Till May.....Aloha, Michael

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THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY - KEIGHLEY BRANCH PRESENTS THE 3rd 30's BALL

at.....VICTORIA HALL, KEIGHLEY on FRIDAY April 18th 1969

Dancing from 7.45pm to 1.00am GUESTS INCLUDE:

NAT GONELLA..trumpet - DENNY DENNIS..Britains Bing Crosby - ERNIE TOMASSO..clarinet
and STANLEY BISHOP organist of 'Ritz Cinema fame

a limited number of tickets on sale now at 12/6 from Nolan and Kershaw,
Cavendish Street
Keighley - Yorks

NB;
over 500 of the limited 750 tickets have already been sold - please apply early to avoid dissapointment**********
* REG BRISTO HOPES TO REPRESENT HQ *
****

THE ICC CHRISTMAS PRESENT FUND - it gives us great pleasure to re-print the list of members who contributed to our annual fund to buy Bing and Kathryn a Christmas gift - this year the gift took the form of silver candlesticks which cost of total of £9-15-0 - air mail postage was £3-18-0 - total cost £13-13-0 the balance being met by club funds;
A.C.BOWERMAN-6/- MR DEAN 10/- BRENDA MILES 10/- SAM STERNBERG 7/6 ERNEST ROBINSON 40/- BRIAN PATTINSON 10/- LESLIE CLARKE 5/- KEITH HYDE 9/- ROBERT DONALDSON 10/- MAX REID 20/- FRANK MURPHY 10/- MARY HUGHES 10/- MRS Mc NAMARA 20/- LESLIE GAYLOR 10/- JOHNNY JONES 10/- ALF FARROW 2/6 COLIN PUGH 10/- PETER MONAGHAN 10/- ARNOLD RECORD 10/- MICHAEL SOPER 20/- EDDIE PURCELL 5/- ROBERT JONES 5/- - total £12-15-0 - for which we thank all members most sincerely

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The ICC sends a special welcome to Louis Topric of Prahas, Chechoslovakia who has just joined our ever growing circle of international music lovers.

BING CROSBY HOLLYWOOD October 30, 1968

Mr. Samuel Sternberg
Ness-Ziona P.O.B. 19
Nechemia St. 130, Israel

Excuse the long delay which ensued before I got around to answering your nice letter, written in mid-September.

It's always encouraging to know that I have friends all over the world who enjoy some of the things I've done on discs, or in pictures, and you were kind to write to write and tell me that you are among this number.

Our good friend, Frank Murphy, in England has done a great deal in my behalf in that country, and, of course, I'm sure he has been most responsible for keeping news of my activities current.

I want you to thank your dear wife for me for doing the very attractive piece of needlework which was enclosed in your letter. It arrived in good shape.

I am especially appreciative of the design, including the oil lamp, and I thank you for the significance of the lamp and what it portrays.

My warmest best wishes to you and your family -

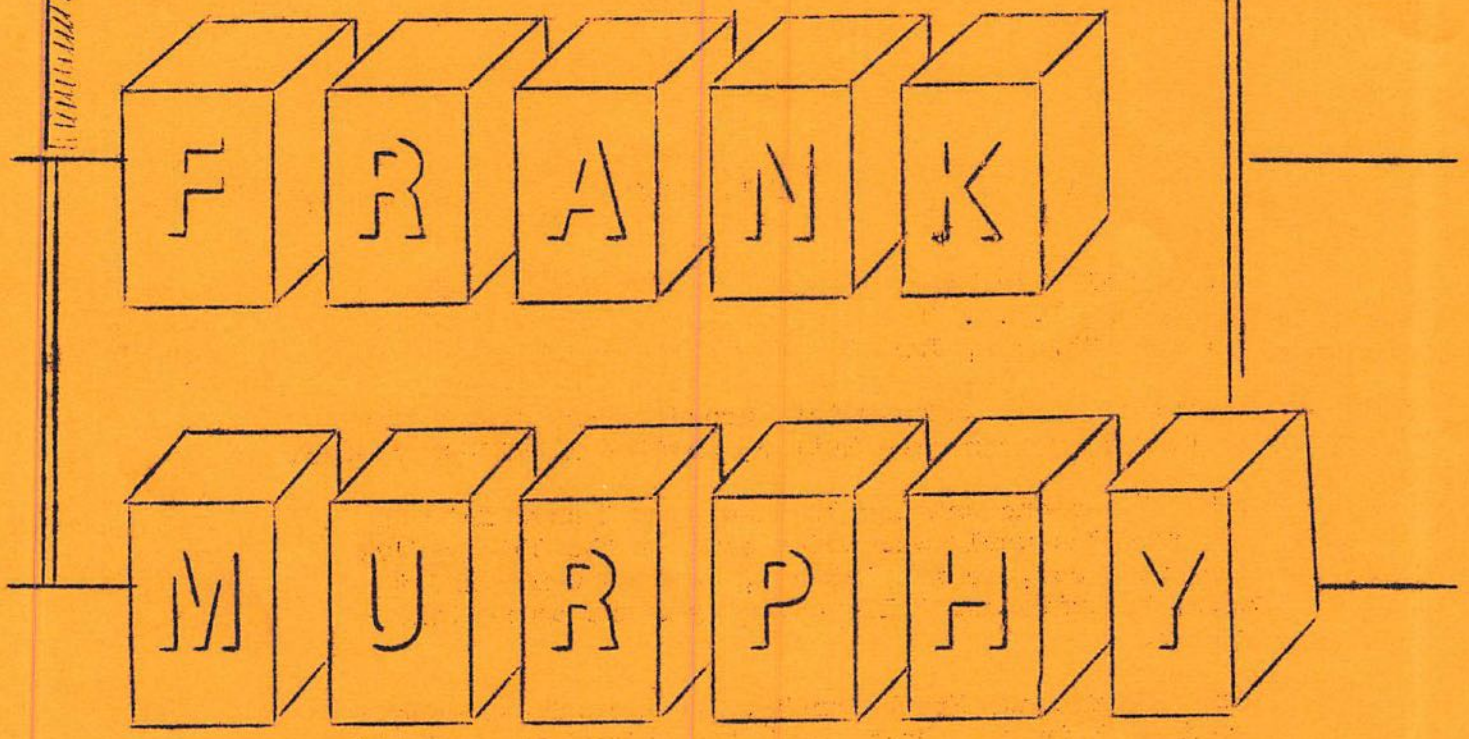
As ever,

signed BING

BC;Im

Bing Crosby

FROM THE EDITOR



GREETS ALL BING ADMIRERS

Hello Again!

and first a sincere thanks to Reg Bristo for designing the above heading. I'm not sure that I deserve such an imposing block, but on the credit side it will tend to shorten this article - hmm.....I wonder if Reg is getting at me.

It's always a pleasure of course to get this opportunity each quarter to say 'hello' to you all - and I hope it makes up for the continuing inability I am experiencing re letter writing which continues to get neglected though of course I do try to reply as often a is possible - I would ask my great pal in Australia Keith, to extend my apologies to many friends there - all letters are here with me and await the first opportunity to reply - so many members write continually that it is very difficult always to keep ahead - but I will endeavour to clear up the backlog soon.

For many years Bing has thrilled fans by his personal contact and thought for them, unlike so many super-stars, Bing has endeared himself to so many for so long, just by writing, when able in reply to letters sent with that hope in mind - Mrs Mc Namara and young Robert Jones are just two examples we know of, and in Israel, Sam was deeply moved as were his family by Bing's thoughtful letter - The ICC too continues to be mindful of Bing's acknowledgment's and references.

Ron and Joyce Bosley issued a wonderful card for Christmas taking us through 30 years of Crosbyana - I was pleased to be included on the mailing list for their unique card. Alma joins me in thanking sincerely all the members who sent greetings to number 23 - your good wishes are heartily reciprocated

After enjoying Bing's terrific New Year Show on BBC TV it strikes me the BBC would score heavily with other Crosby shows awaiting release here - how about THE DEMON UNDER THE BED - this starred Bing along with GEORGE MAHARIS, JOAN COLLINS and young MARY FRANCES CROSBY - shown in the States on October 9th 1968, this is one show that deserves an airing in England - I'm sure some of the HOLLYWOOD PALACE shows would do well too.

A word of thanks to GRAHAM READE in Australia for the excellent photos of Bing and Kathryn's 1968 visit to England - these have been added to our BINGPICS list - see page 9.

Good to have those Belfast Irishmen JACK OSBORNE and PATRICK MURPHY back on the club files, we can ill afford to lose such staunch Crosbyites as these, and did you know JOHNNY JONES can handle a song with great ability - look for news of a special club record featuring this great collector in the next issue.

From Sam Sternberg in Israel came the much appreciated gift of the album HIGH SOCIETY bought for me in Israel by Sam's good wife - also want to thank Mrs Fell of Darlington for the cot blanket and the secret member who sent shoes for Paul - Alma, who takes little interest in Bing matters really has been deeply touched by so many kind enquiries and letters of congratulations - the little lad as Michael tells you on page 33 is coming along very nicely.

Those of us who know will find it hard trying to stifle our titters as we read Reg's references to Ninian and Les on page 50 - long a source of great miss-pronounciation and it took TAPE CROSBY and it's sort out the correct way - I hasten to add that names like these are not to be bandied around in MICK DRURY's company for sure he could stab you with Les's surname - great fellows all the same - all of them.

And what about page 51 - MIGHT LAK A "DITTO" - heavens Reg 'Dit you cvah see a dream walking - ha ha - I laughed loud and long as I read this, but of course you did'nt mean it like that.....did you? - ha ha.

Bing's MINUTE (not NINUTE) STEAK GOURMET on page 54 is of interest since it features in the CELEBRITY RECIPE BOOK edited by Renee Hellman and published by Paul Hamlyn with royalties being donated to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund - Bing certainly pops up in the oddest places.

The back cover on this issue could mislead some collectors - but there is no record with this cover - The negative for this photo came from our man in New York, Fred Romary, and this is the first time I've actually had a cover made from an actual negative - looks quite good too, in fact I was so pleased with this one I had my boy in charge of this section run me off a supply of the negative we got from Kathryn last year of the whole Crosby family - you might remember we used it with poor effect in a recent issue via an electronic stencil - again we got quite a good copy for this issue, and certainly much superior to the previous ink one - But there's a great deal more to these photos than meets the eye, and costs have to be watched - some of the firms processing these can be sharks if care is not taken when placing orders.

Members renewing and indeed joining the Circle will note the new rates for UK - ie 17/6 per annum - regretted but neccessary in view of the continued rise in both materials and postages - To own a car and live in England will shortly mean you have to be almost a millionaire - we could do as Bing suggests and go UP UP AND AWAY - where too - any of our overseas members recommend a cheaper source of living then please let us have your recommendations in the next issue.

and till then, I'll sign off - once again my thanks for your continued valued support - keep those request cards going and keep listening - we'll be back in May - see you on or near enough to the 5th -

Best regards - Frank Murphy

PRESS CLIPPINGS

DAILY EXPRESS.Tuesday Jan 7th-69 LOS ANGELES, MONDAY.
At 65 most men are ready for retirement, But not Bing Crosby. The Old Groaner has signed a million-dollar contract this year to make two 60 minute variety specials on American TV.

SHIELDS GAZETTE. Saturday Sept 14th, 68 MUSIC WHICH CHEERED. W A Chislett
Continuing down Memory Lane, come two more welcome and very cheap reissues, one of MAURICE CHEVALIER (MFP1235-mono) and one of BING CROSBY (MFP1240) These well loved and familiar voices are heard in some of their best known songs. At the age of 80, MAURICE CHEVALIER recently announced his retirement, but I doubt whether his vast public will allow it. BING CROSBY is much younger, but is none the less a veteran and he has had, and is still enjoying, what is perhaps the most fabulous of all careers in the recording studios. He is said to have recorded 2,700 titles in all and as far back as 1960 he was awarded a platinum disc to commemorate the sale of his 200 millionth record.

NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE. Tuesday Dec 10th, 68 BING BOYS
The International Crosby Circle, based at North Shields, has just received the supreme accolade. A mention in a letter from the Great Man. Actually the letter was'nt sent to North Shields at all, but to an Israeli fan, one Mr Sternberg. But as Don Woolland, the circle's publicity man points out, it mentions by name the circle's secretary, Mr Frank Murphy, Lovaine Place, North Shields. "Our good friend, Frank Murphy in England, has done a great deal on my behalf in that country" are the Old Groaner's actual words. And when you have more than 1,000 records and tapes and you edit a quarterly magazine solely devoted to Mr C, those are golden words.

NEWCASTLE SUNDAY SUN. Sunday Jan 12th, 69 Brian Pattinson writes:-
I agree with J Doyle (TV critics-Jan 5th) that THE ANDY WILLIAMS and THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW were good over the holidays. But what a treat on New Years Eve to see "The King" Bing Crosby with THE BING CROSBY SPECIAL. The old magic is still there

DAILY EXPRESS. Thursday Nov 7th, 68 QUICKSILVER "ACTION LINE"

WE TRACE A RARE DISC AND THE SHOW GOES SWINGING ON
BING CROSBY and 10 pairs of high kicking legs were all set to give an eye opening performance for the employees of Littlewoods Stores at their area dance, for as part of a surprise , cabaret girls at the Manchester branch had worked up a leggy dance routine around the OLD GROANERS record QUICKSLIVER. But 10 days before the girls went on stage someone dropped the record and halted rehearsals. Worse still, Bing's record lived up to it's name. There was'nt a copy available anywhere. Hardly surprising when one cosiders that the number was recorded in 1949 with the ANDREWS SISTERS and was never transferred to an LP. But that was no comfort at all to the girls who had bought special silver dresses to dazzle their 600 colleagues at the dance. Then a call to ACTION LINE sent us combing the record companies for that elusive voice. Finally we got on to one of the Decca executives Mr Geoffrey Milne who looked through his own collection and found the record, had it specially taped and sent off to the would be Tiller girls in time for their big night.

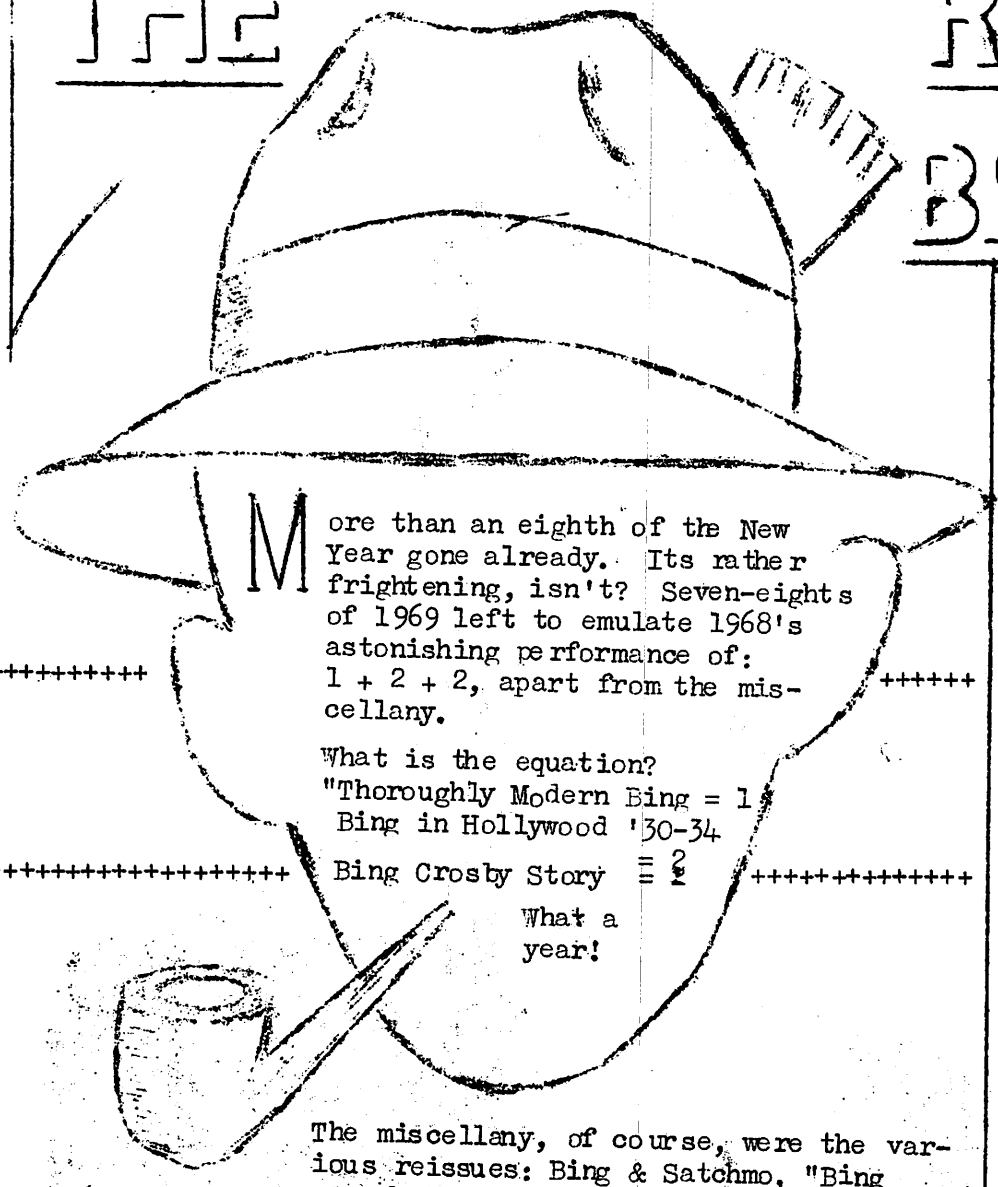
Said a spokesman for Littlewoods Stores - "You have no idea what a difference it made having that record for the dance. Man thanks"

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS. Friday Jan 11th.69 TAIL-PIECES by THE ALLEY CAT
(1) Diana Ross and the Supremes brilliantly produced on Bing Crosby's show(BBC-TV)
(2) Bob Hope cracked; "Bing Crosby was the Tiny Tim of his day"
(3) Excellent BBC-TV Bing Crosby Show - particularly Jose Feliciano's performance

DAILY EXPRESS. Monday Jan 13th,69 KISS FOR THE ROYAL BRIDE-LOS ANGELES,SUNDAY
Hollywood's "Royalty" - Bing Crosby, Jimmy Durante, Irene Dunne, Danny Kaye and Rosalind Russell - kissed the bride at filmlands wedding of the year on Saturday when Bob Hope's daughter, Linda married film producer Nathaniel Lande. Bob(above) joined the bridegroom for the first kiss. Linda 29 and 34 year old Lande were married in a Catholic church with priests and a rabbi participating in the ceremony . Then the 1,000 guests including Vice-President elect Spiro Agnew who was deputising for Richard Nixon drank champagne under two huge tents in Hopes back garden.

BING CROSBY in PARAMOUNT PICTURES

THE REG BRISTO COLUMNS



More than an eighth of the New Year gone already. Its rather frightening, isn't? Seven-eights of 1969 left to emulate 1968's astonishing performance of: 1 + 2 + 2, apart from the miscellany.

What is the equation?
"Thoroughly Modern Bing = 1
Bing in Hollywood '30-34
Bing Crosby Story = 2

What a year!

The miscellany, of course, were the various reissues: Bing & Satchmo, "Bing Crosby" on two M.F.P. issues, and the "Irish Eyes" and two Christmas albums on M.C.A. Not to mention the Paul Whiteman featuring Bing which so far hasn't been issued here.

+ A fantastically bountiful year for all collectors - especially all those of us who were despairing of ever getting some of these early tracks. And now we have them, beautifully reproduced, all in one piece, plus those handsome, elegant sleeves. It would be exceedingly optimistic - if not downright greedy - to expect 1969 to match it. Yet we have every reason to expect Volume 2 of the Bing Crosby Story, Bing has been recording again with things like Hey Jude (which we were all startled to hear), and perhaps the Paul Whiteman "potato head" album will come like a bolt out of the blue.

+ Blue? Blue? Oh Yes! I've had some really delightful correspondence these last few months. For a start our esteemed colleague, Les Phythian who doesn't write nearly enough for us, dropped me a lengthy line - in December! Seems it was in reply to one of mine written in June. Les remarked: "If I had delayed a week or two I could have replied to your letter of June in January!" Um....I like it, anyway! Some of these eminent Bingsters are very prone to this sort of thing. One of them, I forget which, when discussing the various varieties of recording tape available uttered: "He who acetates is lost." You cannot fight that sort of thing. But I can remind Leslie that June Comes Around Every Year, so he may yet get the chance! Though that would imply that I intend to limit my epistles to Wavertree to one a year. Not so! But to get back to blue.....

+ LES PHYTHIAN is, as most of you know, a fanatical follower of Everton Football Club - and that is rather an understatement of his true feelings. He has managed to get Bing's recording of "Once More The Blue & White" played over the amplifiers at Goodison Park for every home game. And it has, of course, been well received and become also something of an institution there. A fine idea.....but what enormous possibilities it opens up!

+ To be quite honest, I don't think there is a league team that plays in blue and gold, but my own particular religion in the football line is Charlton Athletic - whose theme song is "When The Red, Red, Robin" etc because of their red shirts. Cardiff City, my enforcedly adopted team like Everton play in blue shirts - and what is more, they are called The Bluebirds - and still the Bluebird Sings, for as I write they have high hopes - of promotion to Division 1. Green Grow the Lilacs for Plymouth Argle, - there must be many others. I sincerely hope that Everton have a good season - 'twould be awful if Les had to change to Blue, Blue, my world is blue! I'd be blue with him. End of the sports news.

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+ Seems I shall have to ease up on my grizzling at the B.B.C. for it seems that every time I've turned on the radio lately I've heard Crosby records! Sam Costa played Bing and Al Jolson singing "The Spaniard That Blighted My Life", and it must be many years since this was broadcast - and Costa was generous in his praise of these two great artists and their rendering of this rollicking song. The day before I heard Bing and Gary with "Maggie Blues" and Bing solo singing "I Whistle A Happy Tune".

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+ But to my horror, I missed the block-buster! I went into work on the Monday morning and on all sides I was asked how I enjoyed it? Enjoyed what, ses I. "Bing was on for about an hour on Saturday night, singing a lot of his early songs!" I haven't yet recovered. Surely there is a full report of what I missed somewhere in this issue. They wouldn't dare to pull my leg, would they?

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+ And then, after as one newspaper put it, the Clan seemed to have had its fan club members arranging the B.B.C. T.V. Christmas (does anyone <u>really</u> think "Anchors Aweigh" is a <u>great</u> musical?) 1968 went out in a blaze of glory with that unheralded Bing Crosby Special on B.B.C. T.V. Our early warning system broke down on this, didn't it. For once we had not been fully primed and informed on what to expect. This was beneficial in its way for truly we did not know what was coming,...but I have more to say on this further on.

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+ For us down Harlech way that wasn't all either, for our local ITV showed us the following Saturday night (the first of 1969) that strangely autobiographical (in places) film of Bing's "Just For You". You will remember this film - made at a sad time for Bing - in which he couldn't get on with his son - well, hot 'til the last reel anyway. And also during this film he was urged to end his state of loneliness. As I say, strangely autobiographical some of his lines must have seemed to Bing whilst making this film. Bing sang a nice lot in this film, "Zing A Little Zong" was big, you recall and as always, the film was well received according to comments in the following days.

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+ Whilst on the subject of local ITV, Harlech runs a weekly quiz competition something like University Quiz, only the contestants are from local schools, and aged about 14. In two successive weeks Bing Crosby featured in a question - and each time the youngsters showed that they knew a fair bit about Mr. C. The first question related to "how many millions of this song have been sold and who made the record". It was Bing's White Christmas they played. A young schoolgirl said instantly it was Bing Crosby and he had sold 25 millions of the record. Alas, the compere gonged her - and said it was bad luck, but the papers had recently announced that it was 30 millions. Bad luck for the girl indeed.

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+ The following week in the same programme, a snatch of Bing singing, and also the Beatles, were heard, with the question: "What have these two in common according to a recent press report?" Again, one of the youngsters answered promptly - and rightly - that it had been announced that Bing Crosby had recorded a Beatle's composition. I thought that wasn't bad going for such young people. And it goes to show that Bing is veritably part of the vocabulary and household knowledge! And while on quizzes, its not usual of course for Bing to be incorporated in crossword puzzle clues. A couple of weeks ago a clue in The Daily Telegraph puzzle read: Mr. Crosby's search among the golf players, and the answer turned out to be "Probings".

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+ And, of course, Bing was among the "Hollywood Royalty" - as described in the Daily Express - to attend the wedding of Bob Hope's daughter Linda to film producer Nathaniel Lande. Others attending were Jimmy Durante, Irene Dunne, Danny Kaye, and Rosalind Russell. The event was described as "filmland's wedding of the year". So Bob's daughter becomes Linda Lande! Anyway, she was kissed by Bing on her wedding day - and Jimmy. Must have been colossial!

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THE BING CROSBY STORY VOLUME 2

+ Hope the headline hasn't stampeded you to the shops already - but I was one of the many who took the time and opportunity, as suggested by young MIKE CRAMPTON in the last issue of BING, to drop a line to LARRY CARR in the States, not only to thank him for the tremendous job he has done as the driving genius behind The Bing Crosby Story Volume 1 - but to encourage him in his resolve to proceed with Volume 2! Larry had helpfully said that he would welcome suggestions as to what might appear in this second effort. So, as Goering said to Hitler on the way to the Czech crisis conference at Munich in 1938: Don't be vague - ask for Prague! I submitted a couple of dozen plus 2 titles which I myself would welcome, bearing in mind that Larry has access to the wonderful reservoir of material up to the 1934 switch to Decca in Bing's career. My titles were:

1.	Make Believe	27.1.28.	14.	Linger A Little Longer.	25.10.32.
2.	I'm Afraid of You.	21.4.28.	15.	We're A Couple of Soldiers.	25.10.32.
3.	Rose of Mandalay.	28.12.28.	16.	Street of Dreams.	9.12.32.
4.	Coquette.	28.2.29.	17.	I'm Playing With Fire.	9.1.33.
5.	A Bundle of Old Love Letters	31.10.29.	18.	Try A Little Tenderness.	9.1.33.
6.	Just A Gigolo.	2.3.31.	19.	You've Got Me Crying Again.	9.2.33.
7.	I Found You.	21.12.31.	20.	Some Lady Stole Gabriel's Horn.	14.3.33.
8.	Starlight.	16.2.32.	21.	I've Got to Pass Your House.	9.6.33
9.	Love You Funny Thing	23.2.32.	22.	Shadow Waltz.	13.6.33
10.	Waltzing in a Dream	23.4.32.	23.	There's A Cabin in the Pines.	16.6.33.
11.	Happy Go Lucky You	23.4.32.	24.	Little Dutch Mill.	10.3.34
12.	With Summer Coming On	25.5.32.	25.	Give Me A Heart To Sing To.	5.7;34
13.	Love Me Tonight	26.5.32.	26.	Blue Prelude.	13.6.33

+ There's plenty of others - You're Beautiful Tonight, My dear - What Do I Care, Its Home - Young & Healthy, and so on. The titles underlined above are, for my money, MUSTS. I have many of these numbers of course - Blue Prelude, for instance, on Der Bingle but so many people write to me about this fine number that I would like to think I'm being altruistic in including it, particularly as I would like it again in such distinguished company! Coquette, No. 4. above, incidentally if of interest to me because I'm wondering if its the same song as the one Bing recently did on the Longines. The Ink Spots, too, did a good version of this song many, many, years ago.

+ In my letter to Larry I said I realised just how busy he must be and that he should not bother to reply to my letter. But, I do hope it is of use and will bear fruit ! I really believe these two albumssets from CBS are doing well - I've noticed they disappear fairly quickly from the shops in our area.

++++++ THERE'S NOTHING NEW ++++++

N O T E V E N I N

PROTEST SONGS

I T S E E M S

+ Once upon a time, popular singers spent a lot of their time protesting - protesting mainly their undying love for some seemingly unattainable paragon of beauty - and virtue. At least, that is what their keenest critics, particularly in the 30's said. Nowadays, the most outlandish "vocalising" seems to get by without criticism of any kind. Which must mean something. Now many things have changed - some of them irrevocably. The paragon of beauty may remain - increasingly in female impersonators perhaps - but the virtue is largely going by the board. Just as important, the moon has now been proved to be a cold, hostile, cheerlessly forbidding planet, the very anthithesis of warm, nay, hot, romantic love. Just as well that the astronauts have performed this enlightenment, for the moon as a romantic subject was getting rather passe. Lyric writers can get much nearer the bone that the poor old tepid moon, - and get away with it.

+ Indeed, its not unusual for lyrics today to bewail a surfeit of love if you can bring yourself to study them. One off-shoot of today's scene are the "thinking" young writers who are, with some justification, angry at the social scene for various reasons. I'm not decrying them as such, but I wish they would do it in more tuneful voices! Like Bing Crosby did, as a classic example - and the word classic as used here is well premeditated.

+ Oh yes, Bing protested, not only against the usual pangs of unrequited love but against social and economic conditions. Whether he knew at the time it was a protest or just another fine song is beside the point.

+ Bing protested that the average man - Joe Doakes in American, Bill Brown here, perhaps - was needed when the building speculators wanted their skyscrapers built. Or when the railroad tycoon gamblers wanted to spread their iron tentacles across the Continent of America. When the "wheat" kings wanted their fields ploughed and sown - Joe Doakes was there, right on the job. Why, even when a great war came and the States had to be defended, thousands of miles away, Joe Doakes didn't hesitate. And all through this he felt he was wanted - at the end of the road somewhere, somehow, he would share in the Utopia he was helping to build and defend. Why not?

+ And so he followed the line. But something did go wrong. Something that Joe Doakes couldn't quite understand. Who could?

+ All that happened was that the financial jugglers, the railroading tycoons, etc. lost their nerve and the whole flimsy structure came tumbling down. And Joe Doakes, instead of sharing in an earthly Paradise found himself in line, begging for bread, and pleading: "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime"?

+ All this is in the lyric for of course I have not exaggerated in my paraphrase of the classic "protest" song uttered so musically by Bing in 1932. He recorded it on 25th October when not only America but most other countries too were reeling in the icy grip of the great**est** financial depression - to date. I always find this rendering by Bing almost savage in its bewildered innocence of the forces which reduced him to the breadline! When we get around to Lennie Hayton in the "Bing Crosby Accompanied By....." it will be readily apparent that Lennie took part in some memorable Crosby records. "Brother" - or "Buddy" (both occur in the lyric) is certainly one of them. So far very few of them have appeared in reissue form.

+ Take this memorable session of 25th October 1932 - memorable for it contained that quasi-military song, most highly prized now, "We're A Couple of Soldiers (My Baby & Me" This too, was a protest of sorts for the tacit implication of the well-conceived lyric is that life is a battle to be tackled like a solider - and if you can get a good loyal comrade to brave it with you, so much the better. Any ex-Serviceman will testify to that! In this case, lyrically, it was a girl. A happy train of thought. (Cont...

THERE'S NOTHING NEW - PROTEST SONGS:

+ Then on the same session was recorded that lovely piece of what is today called "schmaltz" - drippy even! - "Linger A Little Longer In The Twilight With Me". One doesn't necessarily have to pay too much attention to the actual wording of the lyric - merely to bask in the rich, warm, tones of 1932-Crosby and the perfectly balanced and melodious accompaniment of Lennie Hayton. By these criteria, "Linger" is a great record. Beautiful, in fact.

+ Finally on this memorable day, Bing threw off his yearnings and protestings, turning a somersault almost to put on wax that great yet seemingly informal romp of "Sweet Sue" with Lennie the sole accompaniment on piano. It passes all understanding that it took 36 years for this fine track to appear in any shape or form! A first appearance years after on micro-groove is, however, no novelty as we saw from "Rare Style" about a year ago on Geoff. Milne's Ace of Hearts Decca album. No one will need telling that "Sweet Sue" is on the Epic Crosby Story, Vol. 1.

+ So ended a great day for Bing - and his admirers. As I said earlier, I doubt if Bing regarded "Brother Can You Spare A Dime" as a protest song - in any case, he sang it too well to stir up a social revolution; though I have heard that many in authority were rather worried about the effect of the song. If Bing had sung this song in a dramatic film of the times against a backcloth of bread-lines and soup-kitchens there may have been cause for concern.

+ If today's protesters sang even half as well as Mr. C. did on this day in 1932 the airwaves at least would be a little more melodious, would they not?

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In the last issue, on page 26, Peter Wilson in his most interesting column, had some highly appreciated remarks to make on the stories "OH DEM GOLDEN RECORDS" and "BING AND THE DUET". Seeing that I have, on occasion, taken a kick or two, you will hardly expect me to blush unseen on reading Peter's kind assessment of these two stories. I cannot, indeed, I will not, tell a lie, for yours truly (Reg B.) wrote both, so there! Seriously, thank you Peter - and the readers who were good enough to make similar comments. But I won't put my name any larger at the head of my columns: there may still be kicks about!

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+ Still on our last issue, it was written according to Hoyle! Whoever he was! Ken of that name, journeyed as he always does, from Harrogate to attend Michael's meeting. We all knew it was Ken Hoyle, so how did it appear in the last BING as FRED HOYLE? I don't know, just one of those things - association of ideas! Anyway, we can at least put the record straight. Okay Ken?

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+ Its good to know both from Les Phythian and Fred Reynolds that despite frustrations, the FILMOGRAPHY - my word - is proceeding well and nearing completion. This will be the next part of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY and dealing, as you will have guessed, with all Bing's films, casts, songs, director, musical director, composition, everything in fact.

+ This dedicated team - Ralph Harding, Geoff. Milne, and certainly Bob Roberts, are the others with Les and Fred - continue on the road to the complete Crosby Encyclopaedia - and if that turns out to be its final published title, I would be honoured beyond words.

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+ BING'S £64,000 PRIZE PRO-AM. GOLD TOURNAMENT IS UNDER WAY AS I COMPLETE MY COLUMNS - AND ONE IS CURRENTLY SEEING BING'S NAME ON THE SPORTS PAGES AS ANYWHERE ELSE! BIG HEADLINE IN THE "DAILY EXPRESS" 'R & A CHIEF SWINGS WITH BING!' and went on to say: Bing Crosby will welcome a very distinguished competitor to his legendary pro-am tournament at California's Pebble Beach - Keith MacKenzie, secretary of the Royal & Ancient Club of St. Andrews.....the Crosby tournament is a long-established and most famous pro-am in the world....."

COME BACK VICTOR!
COME BACK JOHN!

----- by whom I mean, Victor Young, John Scott Trotter, Lennie Hayton, - Bob Thompson, perhaps.

------oOo-----

+ In fact, come back anyone who can put a bit of light and shade, pianissimo and forte, into an accompaniment! This heartfelt wish takes on a new fervour as a result of the Bing Crosby Special on T.V. I've already mentioned. Oh, I liked the progfamme enormously, but for one thing.....

+ As I've already observed , this came as a bolt out of the blue for most unusually we didn't have our usual detailed advance notice. The show proved once again that there is a chemistry between Bing and Bob Hope - as Bing said in Call Me Lucky - for here they were as jaunty, casual, and funny as ever. Gone was the indifference seen in the Dean Martin Show, the polite interest in the Andy Williams Show. Here was the old firm at work - with some dam' fine lines again. A real treat to see them at it again. Let's hope The Road to Dodge City comes off! The format of a romp around the film lots was good - and Bing sounded good in the few, comparative, lulls.

+ There can, however, be few singers that won't be shouted down by that young man, Jose Feliciano! Granted his performance on the guitar was remarkable, to say the least, I'm fully with the young lady that wrote and said "That young chap in dark glasses - why did he have to shout like that?" I wonder why. First time I've ever heard Rock n' Roll-Flamenco! His "duet" with Bing, "Mamma Don't Allow" could have been great, with a little modulation on Jose's part.

+ And then we had it - modern, contemporary Bing. I imagine you can get no more contemporary than to sit down with Diana Ross and the Supremes and Feliciano to do a medley of current hits! The Supremes are highly decorative and certainly have an appeal, particularly to the youngsters. I thought too that they paid refreshing deference to Bing, which was nice to see and in sharp contrast to the young man in dark glasses. But that accompaniment! It was Buddy Bregman only worse! But we have to face these things for, as Arthur Askey might say, there it was before your very eyes!

+ I didn't catch the musical directors name, or that of the arranger. During the medley he and the orchestra could be seen in the dim recesses behind the singers, blasting away for all the world as if there was no connection between what they were playing and what the singers were singing. How the latter picked up their cues in this quick-fire medley was a miracle of some kind. The accompaniment was contemporary in that it is the sound one associates with Tamala Motown (is that right?) and I always find the Supremes performances have a curiously ill-defined melody line. Jangling and hectic but seldom melodious. Again, Feliciano's contribution was contemporary, which for me is synonymous with highly unmusical.

+ To appreciate just how uncouth this accompaniment was listen to a tape of the show when the visual distraction of the picture is absent! Its almost unbelievable. The playing for me was an ordeal. Admitted one doesn't expect perfect balance in a T.V. production - except by luck - yet this wasn't a question of balance, merely an exercise in drowning the singers. Take for instance the Supremes singing of "High Noon". This is a song of apprehensive resignation, sung in dramatic, sombre fashion. (I would have liked to have heard Bing sing this with the Andrews, by the way.) Yet the Supremes performance of it was a high-pressure punch on the nose, figuratively speaking.

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COME BACK VICTOR, COME BACK JOHN! (Cont.)

+ How refreshing it was when the cacophony died down and we heard Bing singing "And I Love Her", and "Hey Jude" took on an altogether different character from the Master's voice, and leads us to think that this new recording venture may be quite something.

+ The Western sketch in which Bing and Bob took a swipe at the flower-power love-ins was delicious. Listening to the tape again I found more to laugh at again, such is the incredible throw-away ability of these two - even on first class cracks! Which reminds me that I've often noticed how, when seeing an old Road film on T.V. there are cracks I don't recall hearing before. I've come to the conclusion that this is for two reasons: one, the audience in the cinema on the original viewing was laughing so much that one often missed good lines, and second, this throwing-away of great laughs when the audience is still convulsed with the previous laugh.

+ A highly welcome, and mainly, refreshing show.

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SHATTERING NEWS FROM LARRY CARR

"EPIC" VOLUME II OFF

+ A letter from Larry Carr almost as we were going to press brought the bitter news that the follow-up Volume 2 of The Bing Crosby Story project will not now materialise. I had told Larry not to bother to reply to my letter knowing how busy he is, but in the circumstances no doubt he felt he had to. This is a shattering start to 1969 as far as record prospects go - and the undertones are even more ominous. We have had reports that the Volume 1 had sold well, both here and in the States. Now it seems as if some profound rethinking has been taking place on the question of vintage reissues. Larry's letter reads as follows:

EPIC RECORDS,
51 West 52 Street,
New York 10019.

"Dear Reg Bristo,

My appreciation and thanks for your very nice letter of December 3rd, with my apologies for the delay in answering. It arrived while I was inundated with holiday activities and a long 'flu attack - which have put me behind on answering my mail.

Your comments on Crosby, Vol. I, are of great interest and I'm awfully pleased to know that you (and the other English Crosby collectors) are pleased with it. However, this makes it all the sadder to have to report the bad news that Epic has cancelled their entire re-issue programme (mine and Frank Drigg's Jazz Series) so that there will be no Vol. II on "Crosby", "Wonderful Girls", or "Encores of the 30's" sets. Its quite a blow to me as I've spent the past five years planning, researching and living with the project.

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LETTER FROM LARRY CARR (Cont.)

"Maybe, if sales, letters and general interest can revive Epic's interest and change their minds, something will be done at a later date. I'd love to be empowered to cotinue!

"My best wishes and thanks to you.

Cordially,

(Sgd) Larry Carr. January 17, 1969"

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+ In our disappointment let us not forget Larry's, for it is very apparent in this sad letter. To have spent so many years on a project, see it part-fulfilled, and then to be crushed by cancellation is a blow indeed for him. It is particularly grievous in view of the really fine production of Volume I.

+ What can have prompted this decision by EPIC? I'm afraid we'll have to face up to only one answer. Commercial concerns exist, 99 per cent, to make money. That they can please us is incidental, and only important as much as it furthers the main aim. The answer must be that reissues are not bringing in the return required and indeed demanded. This is a dismal thought but I can see no other explanation. Record companies do not cancel gold-mines or the goose that lays the golden egg, do they?

+ Following on the break-up between English Decca and its American counterpart, and the loss of Ace of Hearts, prospects are now relieved in only one direction. This, of course, is MCA, now responsible for American Decca here.

+ And its performance so far has left much, much, to be desired. So far they have reissued the two Christmas Albums, and When Irish Eyes Are Smiling at the full, newly-recorded price of 36/8d. One doesn't need to be an economic wizard to foretell failure if these tactics are persisted in. One doesn't object to the big price, even though ample revenue has been made ffom the tracks in years gone by when they were 78's, provided the reissues show imaginative selection. But Irish Eyes and the Christmas albums have surely saturated the market by now? MCA have also issued all the Buddy Holly's and Jolson albums.

+ However, there is one ray of hope - in the person and ideas of:

LESLIE GAYLOR

+ You have probably read elsewhere in this issue that MCA, seemingly at a loss how to proceed on their "British" market, approached Leslie on what he considered suitable material to reissue here. This was a well-deserved bouquet to our Isle of Wight colleague who fully merits being called in on consultation, as it were. I sincerely hope, for our sake as well as Leslie's, that his earnest(earnest) efforts bear fruit, for Leslie has submitted to MCA a host of well-thought out ideas for albums.

+ I had prepared my comments before these developments - can't leave it all to the last minute - so you will note a startling coincidence in the titles of this selection of Les Gaylor's and what I have said about some of the titles, e.g. "The One Rose" and "Mother Nature Sings Her Lullaby" in "Discrosby" a couple of pages further on:

"BING CROSBY - THE WONDERFUL 30's or THE TUNEFUL 30's"

1. The Folks Who Live On The Hill	(20.9.37)	1. Remember Me.	(20.9.37)
2. Just A Kid Named Joe.	(19.12.38)	2. Can I Forget You?	(20.9.37)
3. The One Rose.	(5.3.37)	3. On The Sentimental Side.	(22.1.38)
4. When Mother Nature Sings her Lullaby		4. Let Me Whisper I Love You.	(22.4.38)
5. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.	(25.4.38)	5. Would You?	(29.3.36)
6. Whistling In The Wildwood.	(5.4.39)	6. What Will I Tell My Heart?	(3.3.37)

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ALBUM IDEAS BY LESLIE GAYLOR (Cont.)

+ This adds up to a very fine, melodious, album and I imagine we'd all be glad to lay our hands on it. Les tells me, by the way, that he is aware that some of these titles - very few - have appeared on albums but he has included them to preserve the character of the selection. "Can I Forget You?" - what a record that is! "Folk Who Live on the Hill", "Whistling in the Wildwood". A fine all-round selection. Let's hope MCA don't get infected with the Epic virus!

+ I now find myself in rather a dilemma. Leslie sent me his very comprehensive lists, a gesture I much appreciated. But if I go ahead and list these I may be not only stealing his thunder (in a way) but pinching his magazine material! I think I'll chance it, though, just for the sheer pleasure of seeing these great selections in print!

"BING - THE EARLY YEARS"

1.	Two Cigarettes In The Dark.	5.10.34.	1.	Let Me Call You Sweetheart.	8.8.34.
2.	The Very Thought of You.	5.10.34.	2.	Someday Sweetheart.	8.8.34.
3.	Maybe I'm Wrong Again.	9.11.34.	3.	Robins & Roses.	29.3.34.
4.	The Moon Was Yellow.	5.10.34	4.	Never In A Million Years.	28.2.37.
5.	I Love You Truly.	8. 8.34.	5.	Now It Can Be Told.	23.5.38.
6.	Just A'Wearying For You.	8. 8.34.	6.	I Still Love To Kiss You Goodnight	20.9.37

+ To show Leslie's diligence, he added a note to this list, viz: Do NOT use "I Love You Truly" Master L.3803, "Just A'Wearying For You" Master L.3804.

+ Another of Les's suggestions was "Happy Times - Happy Days - Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters". A fine list again. Why this has never been done baffles me. One of the biggest and most successful tie-ups in recording history, surely.

+ Yet again, Leslie ventured into the 50's for "Moments To Remember" as another album - and also another Continental album with Bing singing some of his songs in French. I have yet to hear Bing singing that wonderful song of Charles Trenet's - "La Mer".

+ Unlike our abortive ideas for Volume 2 on the Epic label, which had to consist of pre-1934 recordings, selections for MCA must date from 1934. And now, MCA are bearing a heavy load for Crosby collectors. I wonder if a small point may be cited as an encouraging sign. It got around that MCA were short of a coloured picture of Bing for possible use on future albums. I happened to have a nice one, framed, of Bing taken from a 1940's film review annual. I took it from the frame and sent it to MCA, saying, in effect: If you will use this, keep it for as long as necessary. If you will not use it, please return as soon as possible. My frame is still carrying a black and white substitute and I sent the picture more than three months ago.

+ So, I think the least we can all do is to write to this gentleman:

Mr. Alan J. Crowder,
MCA Records, Ltd.,
139, Piccadilly,
LONDON, W.1.

Say that we know of their interest in reissuing Crosby records, and also of Leslie Gaylor's conscientious work, and that we are eagerly looking forward to these albums. Will you, everyone of you? It may well be the small action that swings the decision by MCA to go ahead. In aggregate, from all our members, it would be an impressive demonstration to the company. And it only takes a few minutes!

+ If you can write TWO letters, try one on a 9d airmail letter to EPIC, telling them how shocked you are at their decision to cancel the Crosby Volume II project. The Epic address is two pages back. I'm not quite certain to whom it should be addressed - NOT Larry, of course, for he is already on our side. Perhaps just to Epic Records will find the right quarter. The Lord helps them that helps themselves, so 'tis said. Perhaps the recording companies will respond if we take the necessary action !

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THEY TOLD ME IN GREAT LETTERS

....thereby providing good stories of Crosbyana which I would like you to share.

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Incidentally, both of these correspondents described themselves as "loners" - small-fry, no-account! And they were clearly not mock-modest! It all fits in with my earlier description of hard-core Crosbyites - fine people. But we must adapt the old advertisement: You're Never Alone in admiring Bing Crosby!

+ You may recall that in the last issue of BING I mentioned that I had been delighted - and surprised, to come across a "78 album" of Bing - a deep purple colour, with "Bing Crosby &c". inlaid with silver-coloured printing. This prompted a most interesting letter from E R I C M O O R E, of 29, Cleopas Street, Liverpool:

"....after reading your column for so long I feel as though I know you well enough! Most interested in your discussion on searching for old Crosby 78's, and the strange places in which one is liable to find them. I have had many similar experiences since I first started collecting Bing's records around 1934.

"As a matter of interest, and because you said you had never seen the Bing Crosby 78 album which you found recently, you might like to know that Brunswick published two such albums during the War years. Each album contained six records - although the records could be purchased separately of course - and the following are the details of the two albums for your information: As you can see, the record numbers run consecutively -

02805	I Cried For You - Stardust.	02923	Boots & Saddle - Mexicali Rose.
02806	My Melancholy Baby - Just One More Chance.	02924	Empty Saddles - Whistlin' In The Wildwood.
02807	Down By The Old Mill Stream - Home on the Range.	02925	I'm An Old Cowhand - My Little Buckaroo.
02808	I Surrender Dear - To You, Sweetheart.	02926	We'll Rest At the End of the Trail - Silver on the Sage.
02809	When The Bloom is On the Sage - Missouri Waltz.	02927	There's A Goldmine in the Sky - Twilight on the Trail.
02810	God Bless America - The Star Spangled Banner.	02928	Round-Up Lullaby - Its a Lonely Trail.

+"Brunswick, about this time, had different ideas for boosting record sales. You remember of course the so-called 'picture labels'? I possess four records, two containing the songs from "Waikiki Wedding", and the other two containing the songs from "Double Or Nothing". The picture is a 'still' from the films. I have seen normal issues, i.e. without the pictures. It would be interesting to know how many people still have these special issues.

+"With regard to collecting old 78's, I have found many in the most unusual places. I was returning home from the cinema one night, for instance, and saw whilst passing a second-hand shop, several records in the window. I could make out the Brunswick label so tried to get a closer look. The three records nearest to the front of the window were 'My Woman', 'Black Moonlight', and 'Moonstruck'. Needless to say I was waiting outside when the shop opened next morning and managed to obtain these three - and nine others for a shilling each! Others I have come across in a similar manner are "Three Little Words","Mississippi Mud"/"I Left My Sugar &c" and "There Ain't No Sweet Man", all on H.M.V., with "Orange Blossom Time" and "Song of the Dawn" on Columbia. Most of the others of this period, I must add, I had obtained in the normal manner.

(Cont. over.

"THEY TOLD ME" Cont.

"As you say, you never know where these 78's are going to turn up, and even though these days are rich in great reissues on L.P.'s I still can't resist a 'second hand' shop. Long may they reign! I obtained 'Sentimental & Melancholy' from the Officers' Mess at a camp I was stationed at during the War. 'There'll Be A Hot Time in the Town of Berlin', with the Andrews Sisters on Decca Red Label was a very acceptable gift from an airman during the war, too. One of my treasured record, 'The Last Round-Up' was purchased in a little place called CARDIFF while I was stationed at St. Athen completing my Air Crew training.

"In your column you also made reference to 'loners'. I too was one until I joined the I.C.C. Somehow I managed to get along, gleaning information from all sorts of places, even writing to the great man himself - and getting a reply - during the War. Now, although a member of some two years' standing I suppose I am still somewhat of a 'loner' with the headquarters being so far away that one doesn't get the opportunity to meet fellow members. Hope I haven't been too long-winded!"

+ Well, Eric, you were not...but you could meet up with Les Phythian for the next Leeds party, for he comes across from Liverpool. And indeed, I'm about 250 miles from Leeds and considerably further from South Shields. Even so, I repeat, you're never alone in admiring Bing. The big thing about the I.C.C. for those of us necesarily spread all over the country - indeed the world - is that we can learn in advance of what is coming out on record, radio and t.v. and read all the interesting views, memories, and stories written by members for members. We are with kindred spirits, as it were. True, some members of the I.C.C. own colossal collections and are extraordinarily well-informed - but having met most of these eminent gentlemen I can assure all 'loners' they are indeed on common ground with these leading members, as they would soon find out if and when they meet. Believe me, the Crosby-bond is a very real, friendly, one.

+ I would be interested, too, to learn if any of our members possess these 'purple' covered 78 albums. I think the picture labels are more common, though not that common! I recall Brunswick did it with other artists - The Ink Spots and Carmen Miranda come to mind. Thank you for the memories, Eric.

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My now good friend N I N I A N F A I C H N E Y, from North C' the border at 20, Foundry Street, Bainsford, FALKIRK, Stirlingshire has been in touch and lifted in most entertaining fashion a corner of Crosbyana in Bonnie Scotland. Ninian a few months ago had a wonderful write-up, complete with picture, in his local paper, and also sent a well-received message to Mike's November meeting. I asked in my column if Ninian had had any mail as a result of the press story - and now I know that Ninian - and in passing, what a lovely name that is to roll off the tongue - can claim some sort of relationship not only with Phythian but also with Wales!

+ I was prepared to accept that the surname is an old Scottish one, but Ninian particularly intrigued me, for it is a common name in Wales. Ninian Park for instances, where Cardiff City play, and there are several streets named likewise. A local lady tells me that it comes from Lord Ninian - or was it St. Ninian? Must check again. Anyway, Mr. Faichney wrote:

"I count myself small-fry, you know, in comparison with so many members of the I.C.C. I also was a lone-wolf until about four years ago when through Frank Grant, Stan White and one or two others I was very warmly welcomed into the wider field of Crosbyana and became a member of Tape Crosby and the magazine. Did the newspaper article bring me any mail? I'm sorry to say NO, but the response in other directions was terrific! My job with a jobbing printers takes me around visiting almost daily and I see the personnel of many factories, offices, shops, from directors down to van-boys of a radius of about 25 miles. Every day for at least a couple of weeks after the article appeared I was collared by somebody or other who went out of their way to thank me for bringing back certain memories of Bing and some of his great standards, or even to say what a change it was to read about Mr. Crosby rather than the current 'Top Ten' nonenities. Teenagers were delighted to tell me that their Mums and Dads always said there was NOBODY like Bing Crosby. Many of these youngsters told me of Bing records in their houses which were still played. I had some amusing/embarrassing moments, too, like when I approacheda foundry

(Cont. at the end of "DISCROSBY").....

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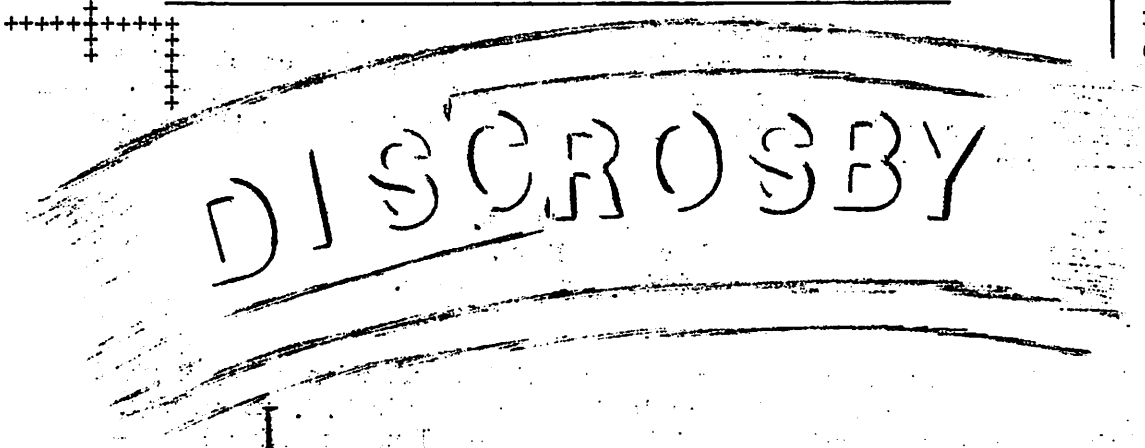
ABOUT CROSBY RECORDS - OLD, NOT SO OLD - AND NEW!



If you have a comment on a particular record of Bing's - or if you have a favourite you consider has been inexplicably neglected - tell me about it for this column.

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I have been most struck this past couple of months with the number of readers who have written to say that they have picked up and therefore heard for the first time Bing's "The One Rose (That's Left In My Heart)". This is good to know for it is indeed a beautiful Crosby record that has been far from overburdened with micro-groove reissues. Indeed, a long-deleted 10" is perhaps its only reappearance. This was a Victor Young accompaniment, made on 5th March, 1937.- the original record, I mean.

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+ Another in this category is an equally beautiful number - "When Mother Nature Sings Her Lullaby", recorded on 25th April, 1938, with Eddie Dunstedter accompanying on a Wurlitzer pipe organ. Good lyric, lovely melody and Bing at his best - yet this number has never appeared on L.P. 10" or 12". I'm prepared to believe this is a favourite record with a great number of Crosbyites, especially pre-War vintage. I know it is one of mine. The reverse side of the original Brunswick in 1938 was "Little Lady Make-Believe", also an excellent record. This has just squeezed on to L.P. being, of course, on the Ace of Hearts "Bing Sings for Children" album issued a year or so ago. This was one of the records which started with a gentle "aside" from Bing: "Well, Goodness gracious! Who's this little lady?" Something like "Well, let me see now..." on "Little One" so many years later.

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+ I'd better mention that "One Rose" was thought highly enough of to be included in the autobiography set to save the hawk-eyed a stamp! But this was the "informal" version.

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+ We could even have "Bing in the Rose Garden" L.P. Rose of Mandalay, Mexicali ditto, One ditto, Rose of San Antone, Robins & Roses, La Vie En Rose; Mighty Lak a ditto; ditto of Tralee! ; Bouquet of Roses; Honeysuckle Rose; Rose in Her Hair; Who Gave You the Roses? And if pressed Rosalie and Rosaleen!

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+ Our good friend Les Gaylor took a severe dislike to the introduction to "Where The Rainbow Ends"! It is an odd, off-beat, sound - but on the other hand, it is not a gimmicky electronic sound, I feel. I've listened carefully and believe the instrument to be a piece of wood-wind, perhaps an oboe, though someone suggested it might be that rare instrument the soprano saxophone. Its a slightly weird sound, however, but I don't dislike it. I gather a different issue substitues it for Bing whistling. Speaking of instruments, isn't the French horn used effectively to give the "wide open spaces" atmosphere - particularly in the epic arrangements of How the West Was Won. I've noticed its wide use in Western pictures generally.

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+ I'm hoping this issue carries definite news of Bing's album, the new one. It mustn't be long delayed or, like all these contemporary efforts, it loses its point. Many of the younger members are writing to me asking where and when. So far, I don't know....honest!

(Cont. over...

DISCROSBY (Cont).

+ Perhaps young Mike Crampton has the full "gen" by now. He was certainly quick off the mark for on December 2nd he wrote me as follows: "On November 21st, Bing checked into the Hollywood United Recording Studios and recorded sides for Jimmy Bowen's Amos Productions. They will probably appear on the Reprise label since Bowen is the brains behind Sinatra and Martin. Bing recorded:

Those Were The Days.	Lonely Street.
Hey Jude.	More and More.
It's All In The Game.	Little Green Apples.
The Straight Life.	

+"There will be singles and an album, probably the above will beput with some of the Reprise singles of the past few years." Mike couldn't disclose his U.S. newshound! Delighted as I am at the news - and much as I will lap up the album when its here - a cold hand is clutching at my heart: Bregman - Bauer - now Bowen. But perhaps the latter isn't the musical director?

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+ So many Christmas and New Year greetings took me by surprise! I do most sincerely appreciate such kindness. BOB ROBERTS, and presumably VERA, sent me a most appreciated greeting. I know Chatham - and I'll be there one day! Bob took the opportunity to point out that I omitted the All Star Festival Album on which Bing and Louis Armstrong sing Lazy River! Bob understands this sold well over a million copies, and contends it should be added to Bing's million-sellers! I'm not reluctant to heap the laurels on Bing so, let it be, even if it is "cheating" a bit! I want some tapes off Bob but his stock is so vast I just don't know where to begin!

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+ My young friend at West Bromwich, Eileen Knight, told me that among others, she had the "Drifting & Dreaming"album for Christmas - beg pardon, birthday present! She's a lucky young lady for this truly is a beautiful album - in fact, "quiet and dreamy" to use Eileen's own description. Eileen is one of the "newer gals" - of the Young Bing set she says "sounds more band than Bing, and that doesn't suit me!" Fair enough, but what Bing there is.....! And consider the historic value and importance. Eileen reckoned the postman should have delivered her letter to me on a silver salver for she posted it FIRST CLASS! He didn't, Eileen, but it couldn't have been more appreciated.

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+ John Dobson wrote: "....for myself, I shall spend two or three days over the Christmas holiday playing Bing all the time. If I had the time I could play Mr. C. all day - something to look forward to in retirement!" Well, that's another angle. John wrote from his home in Middle Park Avenue, Eltham, which is in S.E. London. And I know Middle Park Avenue well, too, for I did a fair stint of courting in and around The Yorkshire Grey....Ah, but that was long ago. John also enthused over the Paul Whiteman album featuring Bing, which he had just obtained from TARA in Dublin.
N.B. John, that particular stint came to nothing!

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+ John Bassett, of Great Wakering in Essex, who recently had that fine letter from the Maestro himself, has of late obtained How The West Was Won, and hastened to say "....I agree with every word you say about this set. It is first class Bing, and I'm certainly with you in your remarks about the fine choral work on this set." John has a formidable collection of Crosby records and his opinion is appreciated. I know, too, that John has recently heard Dick Todd for the first time ever...after hearing his name mentioned quite a bit.

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DISCROSBY (Cont).

The more I listen to it, the more I think our Frank Ashurst of Pemberton, Wigan, may be right in his choice of "Gypsy Love Song" with Frances Langford as the finest duet. Like Frank, I also like the operetta style of the verse. What about my previous choice "Gallagher & Shean". H'm.. just shows how difficult the choice is, as I indicated in the original story! I know, Gallagher can be the best male duet. Trust Irene is well!

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NINIAN FAICHNEY Continued:

gate-house as the workers were coming out. The gate-keepers tuck his head out of his "Enquiries" window and bawled: "Where the blue of the night....." etc, then informed all and sundry "Here comes your Bing man! " All joined in...Then again, delivering to a firm 20 miles from Falkirk I was passing one of the office executives - normally a very aloof type - when he stopped me. I was expecting some business query, but he said, mock seriously: "Now Ninian, when does your Bob Hope article appear?" I thought I came back fairly well when I replied that my next would be on - The Beatles! But he was on the ball. "Oh no, the Editor won't want that!" And off he went with a broad grin on his face, a most unusual sight.

+ I must record, however, that biggest reaction came naturally from middle-aged people, but clearly with domestic and probably business or employment worries they seem to have no time - or money - these days to pursue record-collecting or magazines to the extent we do. Yet the warmth with which they spoke of, and remembered, Bing was most heart-warming. Altogether the newspaper story seemed to have pleased a lot of people and it is most noticeable that many formerly casual acquaintances have, shall I say, a warmer regard for me and the knowledge that the pursuit of Crosbyana is still a very real thing.

+ The lady in Wirral, whose letter you used, must get herself a tape recorder then she need have no fear of wearing out her precious records.

+ Ninian? Well you certainly started me off on something regarding my name! I've even been wading through several library books only to get conflicting information about it. I do possess two volumes of the "History of Stirlingshire" published in 1880 in which a detailed account refers to St. Ninian, born AD 360, died AD 432 - ordained at Rome, returned AD 397 and built the first sone church in Scotland! There are many churches, chapels, and of course, graveyards in his name, occasionally corrupted to St. Ringan in certain areas. Another book, however, says it is a corruption of Vivian. Thinking this odd, I looked up details of St. Vivian, and the book said "St. Vivianus, 5th century martyr. Bearers of this name, Roman-British, live in WALES. The Welsh in fact, have three forms of it: Vyvyan, Vivian, Fithian, or even a PHYTHEON is noted ! I know you know our esteemed Leslie, so perhaps he has delved into the history of the name. Seems you pays your money and takes yer choice. I must say I was pleasantly surprised to find, as a result of your curiosity in the name, that I seem to have perhaps a tie up with Les Phythian in Liverpool and your part of the world, Wales.

+"Finally Reg, please keep up the good work - but spare a little time for the nearest and dearest, or they'll be singing 'I Ain't Got Nobody'. With best wishes, Ninian Faichney".
+ These small-fry "loners" certainly write good letters, do they not? My warmest thanks to both.

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+ Finally, for this issue, the "Competitors' Journal" is a paper I suppose I've been dimly aware of but do not normally read. Seeing it lying on someone's desk I idly picked it up and almost the first thing I saw was a letter as follows:-

> "VINTAGE" (was the heading) : "What a remarkable duo - Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. 'The Bing Crosby Show' made one wonder how many modern entertainers will be capable of providing such a show when they reach the same age. C. Bygate, Toppham Way, Greenhill Estate, SHEFFIELD".

+ It does indeed - and provokes all kinds of thoughts which must await the next issue. For now, is Mr./Mrs. Bygate one of US? ++++++++++++++++Cheers for now from Reg Bristo.

AROUND THE WORLD with "BING"

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - Monday Febuary 3rd 1969 - KEN Mc MANUS

Just to say hello from the wilds of South Africa. I've been here for 6 weeks now and everything is swinging - I've had the chance of running a jazz prog on SA radio. They wanted to know about my collection so I got in a big plug for Bing and they played one of my discs - I FOUND YOU. Not bad for a start. I also got in a mention for THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY.

I have a pretty good thing going here and am hoping to 'dig out some Crosby collectors from somewhere.

Bing gets a lot of air time here. Nothing very old though, every day they play bits from his singalong albums. I never liked them, so what, it's still Bing is'nt it.

THE STAR JOHANNESBURG Thursday Jan 2 1969 BING CROSBY'S NINUTE STEAK GOURMET

Photo caption "The Groaner" "Der Bingle" America's best loved crooner. His name is synonymous with songs like WHITE CHRISTMAS and TRUE LOVE. With BOB HOPE and DOROTHY LAMOUR, Bing Crosby made those incredibly funny films THE ROAD TO.....series. On top of his other talents Mr. Crosby owns horses, racetracks, baseball teams, real estate, oil wells, ranches and cattle - the complete business tycoon.

INGREDIENTS

6 minute steaks, ¼ pint thick sour cream, two tablespoons chives, two tablespoons parsley, chopped, one teaspoon oregano, one tablespoon onion juice, one tablespoon lemon peel, grated.

Preheat the oven (375deg. F) or gas mark 4) place the steaks in a shallow pan and grill on each side until well browned. Combine the sour cream with the herbs, onion j ce and lemon peel. Spread this mixture on the steaks and place them in an ovenproof dish in the oven for about 10 minutes. Serve very hot with baked potatoes and crisp green salad. (serves six)

ENGLAND - THE GUARDIAN 23 Jan 1969 - KEN HOYLE

CROSBY'S LOVE OF GOLF SERVES CAUSE OF YOUTH IN U.S.A.

from PAT WARD THOMAS
Monterey Jan 22

Eleven hours after leaving the damp greyness of London we descended into the damp greyness, albeit a temporary state, of California. My connecting flight to Monterey was cancelled, but the prospect of a wearisome delay at San Francisco airport was soon dispelled. I was summoned to a telephone and Bing Crosby said; "I'll be along and buy you a drink while you wait". He had met the earlier flight on which I was expected, and yet had troubled to come again.

It was as I had always sensed it would be, relaxed and gentle, with an immediate feeling of sympathy and warmth. Like many men who endure greatly, whatever their field of endeavour, there is about Crosby an immediate impression of balance, of gentleness and yet of stength, of modesty and ease of manner. He sat, quietly puffing his pipe, as the talk turned to golf from the day, which his delightful wife, a woman of many accomplishments, not least acting, nursing and teaching, had spent with a youthful class.

There was a glow in his voice as tales of Pebble Beach and Cyprus Point unfolded; and of how he came to golf; and of the great tournament, the Crosby National Pro-Am, that be ins at Pebble, Cyprus, Spy Glass Hill on the lovely peninsula tomorrow.

LOVE FOR THE GAME

The love for golf was born in Crosby while, as one of The Rhythm Boys, he took part in Paul Whiteman's great musical THE KING OF JAZZ in 1930. With other musicians

he would play at Lakeside, a club of which later he was often champion, and is now a life member. Crosby had always admired the classic leisurely swing of the late Mac Donald Smith, then a professional on Long Island, and modelled his style upon it. Golf, I imagine, came easily to him, just as singing had done; "It never seemed like work; I got such a kick out of it." His family were musical - "My father had the first victrola in town" - and the young Bing was given every encouragement to sing.

Eventually he had a handicap of two and competed occasionally in championships. Meanwhile, in 1936, he started a tournament at Rancho Sante Fe so that amateurs could play with professionals, and a memorable contribution to golf was under way. After the war, having joined Cyrus Point, he suggested that the tournament be played here and it has become the unique occasion it is.

Multitudes throughout the nation have had lasting cause to bless Crosby's interest in golf and his awareness that the game could be of such benefit to humanity. From the profit since the war a dozen youth centres have been built, and numerous others, together with universities in 26 different states not fortunate enough to have large endowments have received funds so that promising students can be helped. This outlay now surpasses two million dollars; every year at least $100,000 goes to the cause, and it all stems from the inspiration of Crosby himself, and the warm respect he commands from all who know him - and originally from the simple fact that a friendly man wanted to gather his golfing friends around him

ANXIOUS TO PLAY

No fewer than 9,250 amateur golfers are listed as anxious to play in the tournament. This year the number was finally reduced to 1,500 and the choice, which cannot be easy, rests with Crosby himself. The entry fee for the amatuers now has been raised to $250 and this, together with the television and entrance fees, forms the bulk of receipts to cover the $300,000 cost of promoting the event. The figure would be much higher but for the devoted voluntary work of local golfers and business men and the legions of Crosby friends. And also to the fact that every year it costs him personally in the region of $25,000.

At the head of this company is a remarkable man. Mauri Luxford, a native of New Zealand, who won a Military Cross in an Anzac regiment in the First World War, and was an All Black rugby player of long ago. His life has been devoted to the organisation of golf in California.

The cause of charity is gathering responsibility. No one wants to tell the youth centres and universities that their grants are not forthcoming, but in spite of this; the professionals demanded that the prize money be increased by $50,000 to $150,000, and that they might expect more the following year, and so on, or drop the event from their list. Who could have blamed Crosby if he had told them to go to the devil?. That he did not is measure of the man; But recent times, as during the Los Angeles open, of public antipathy to the recent professional turmoil, should be a warning. In future years, although the professionals have the power they sought, it may need greater resistance than they foresaw.

In the world of pro-am golf, which thrives so in America, Crosby has become something of a monument,. For an amateur to play in it is a mark of distinction, for they are the few in a large company. Of the 168 the balance is struck between good golfers, of whom Michael Bonallack this year is one, personalities from entertainment and other sports and friends of Crosby himself.

The professional entry is up to strength with Nicklaus, Caspar, Palmer, and others at it's head. The handicap limit is 18, and among those on that mark are Jack Lemmon Clint Eastwood, Pat Boone and Andy Williams, whose tournament is next on the schedule Dean Martin is more highly rated on 16 together with Sean Connery. Jack Cramer and Tony Trabert clearly are not unaccomplished on 13 and 11, and James Garner, an agreeable man, dark of beard for a present part, on 10 must stand high among people from the film w rld.

* AROUND THE WORLD WITH "BING" continued on page 56 *

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* continuing *
* AROUND THE WORLD WITH "BING" *
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AUSTRALIA - TV-LISTENER Jan 17, 1969 - KEITH HYDE

BING SETTLES DOWN IN 'FRISCO

Bing Crosby, wife Kathy and family are now well settled into their San Francisco home. The move to Northern California was inspired, according to Mrs Crosby, by a desire to live in a more closely knit community than that offered by southern California.

For Bing, the move meant a transfer of the command post of his show business and sports enterprises. In the Crosby household all home problems are handled by the butler. Mr Fisher and his staff. Mr Fisher started service with the Queen Mother and has worked for society figures both sides of the Atlantic. His staff consists of his wife, Norma, who does the downstairs work, a nanny, a governess, and a Japanese woman cook.

"The staff in this house has to be competent" says Mrs Crosby. It is like and office "Our butler does everything. I'm not very domestic".

AMERICA - SAN JOSE MERCURY Dec 30, 1968 - DOROTHY HARDIMAN

Bing Crosby's wife has a deal with the Las Cruces, Mexico, kids (Bing haciendas there) to teach them English while they teach the Crosby kids Spanish... One sharp Mexican lad decided English was so much harder than Spanish, he deserved two lessons to one.

SAN JOSE MERCURY Dec 23, 1968

Sean Connery's turning golf promoter as part of a complicated pro-a ateur tourney expected to be England's biggest ever; Connery is asking Arnold Palmer, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Joe Louis, etc, to take part; play will be by invitation only with prize money from advertisers at £2500 a hole

SAN JOSE MERCURY Jan 5, 1969

Bing Crosby has completed an album of contempory chart songs. It was produced by Amos Productions and is now up for grabs for distribution rights.....

SAN JOSE MERCURY Jan 24, 1969 A WASHOUT FOR THE CROSBY PRO-AM

The Crosby National Pro-Am golf tournament, never particularly noted for it's perfect weather, was deluged Thursday. Rain came down so hard that at about 3.30pm the first day's scores were cancelled and everybody will play their first rounds today - hopefully, Der Bingle, host to the tournament - once called The Crosby Clambake - is almost in tears above as he surveys the sodden Cypress Point.

ENGLAND - NEWCASTLE EVENING CHRONICLE Febuary I, 1969

GOLFERS IN THE BIG MONEY

George Archer, Californian winner of the Bing Crosby Open this week, heads the 1969 list of money winners on the United States golf circuit. Archers total is £11,270 from three tournaments.

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEND IN ALL CROSBY NEWS-ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THIS QUARTERLY REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CROSBY EVENTS - HELP TO MAKE "AROUND THE WORLD WITH "BING" A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE COLUMN - when sending clippings please always add the date and name of the newspaper or magazine